ROCKETS' GAME 1 ROUT FUELED BY DEFENSE SPORTS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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Flames savage historic Notre Dame

Diana Ayanna / Associated Press

Flames and smoke rise as the spire on Notre Dame Cathedral collapses Monday in Paris.

Parisians watch in horror as blaze damages beloved cathedral

By Adam Nossiter and Aurelien Breeden
NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS – Notre Dame Cathedral, the iconic symbol of the beauty and history of Paris, was scarred by an extensive fire Monday evening that caused its delicate spire to collapse, bruised the Parisian skies with smoke and further disheartened a city already back on its heels after weeks of violent protests.

The spectacle of flames leaping from the cathedral's wooden roof – its spire glowing red then turning into a virtual cinder – stunned thousands of onlookers who gathered along the banks of the Seine and packed into the plaza of the nearby Hôtel de Ville, gasping and covering their mouths in horror and wiping away tears.

"It is like losing a member of one's own family," said Pierre Guillaume Bonnet, a 45-year-old marketing director.

"For me there are so many memories tied up in it," he said of the cathedral.

Fire continues on A10

Flood rules still fall short

Reports call for increased detention and a regional approach to development

By Emily Foxhall
STAFF WRITER

Development regulations to limit flooding in the Houston region have improved but continue to fall short, with insufficient detention requirements that can put homes at risk and a patchwork of rules that could better be aligned across jurisdictions, according to two research reports released Monday.

Hurricane Harvey prompted officials to take a hard look at the regulations that govern development in this rapidly growing area. The city and county changed their rules for some new construction, but local researchers say more should be done.

Both reports, from the Greater Houston Flood Mitigation Consortium, urge Houstonians to think of flooding as a problem to be addressed with the help of smart development policy, rather than fixed later with expensive infrastructure.

"We have a lot more knowledge now," said Christof Spieler, project manager for the consortium, "and there's a real opportunity to update these regulations."

Their first report, focused on detention and drainage, calls for an increase in

Flooding continues on A8

Dems set up shop in state for '20 push

GOP says voters in the 6 targeted House districts will reject 'socialist' ideas

By Bill Lambrecht
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON – Democrats plan to open a regional headquarters in Austin this spring and dispatch organizers to Texas suburbs in an unusual early step to prepare challenges against Republican members of Congress believed to be vulnerable because of rapid demographic change.

The moves by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee are intended to back up House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's vow to secure House victories in the 2020 election "by this November," a year ahead of the actual vote. The effort focuses on Texas districts that have been unwinnable for Democrats for years.

New polling in several Texas districts coupled with a surge in minorities on voter rolls have House Democrats believing that Texas offers some of the most fertile

Democrats continues on A8

Authorities identify 2 'Killing Fields' victims

Police hope for new new leads that can help solve decades-old cases

By Nick Powell
STAFF WRITER

LEAGUE CITY – The identity of two women found in a swampy area off Interstate 45 has confounded investigators for decades. On Monday, police gave the women once known as "Jane and Janet Doe" names, faces, and even brief back stories in hopes of attracting leads as to why their decomposed remains were found within 300 yards of each other, five years apart.

"Jane Doe" was identified as Audrey Lee Cook, who was 30 at the time her body was found in 1986. "Janet Doe" was Donna Prudhomme, 34, when her body was found in 1991.

At a news conference, League City Police Chief Gary D. Ratliff said authorities hoped the identifications would "help bring closure to the victims and their families," and possibly provide information that could be of use in this case.

Lt. Michael Buffington, the lead investigator, said detectives were most interested in jogging the memories of people who knew Cook and Prudhomme shortly before their deaths.

"There's a lot of different theories you can speculate on," Buffington said. "We don't have that one concrete smoking gun piece of evidence that links them all together."

Donna Prudhomme, left, and Audrey Lee Cook

Cook and Prudhomme

Victims continues on A10

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NEWSMAKERS

Republican Weld declares bid for presidency

Ex-Mass. governor faces an uphill battle in challenge to Trump

By Robert Costa
WASHINGTON POST

Former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld officially announced Monday that he will challenge President Donald Trump for the 2020 Republican presidential nomination, after several months of mulling a long-shot bid that would appeal to traditional GOP voters.

Weld made the announcement in an appearance on CNN's "The Lead With Jake Tapper" in which he described himself as "a Republican who works across the aisle and gets things done."

"Donald Trump is not an economic conservative. He doesn't even pretend to be. The country deserves to have some fiscal constraint and conservatism," he said.

Weld, 73, will face a steep climb against Trump, an incumbent who is deeply popular with Republican voters. Weld last won an election in 1994 and has drifted politically in recent years, even serving as the vice presidential candidate for the Libertarian Party in 2016. But he is now determined to offer the GOP a moderate alternative.

Weld filed official papers with Federal Election Commission on April 1, according to his campaign.

Weld's entry comes as the Trump political team has touted the president's standing, both financially and politically. Trump's re-election campaign raised more than $30 million in the first three months of the year, the campaign said Monday.

Weld

"The President is in a vastly stronger position at this point than any previous incumbent president running for re-election, and only continues to build momentum," Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale said in a statement.

Still, if Weld's campaign did somehow get traction, it could present a headache to the Trump operation, and recent history has demonstrated the effect of such challenges.

A White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly, dismissed Weld on Monday as a "relic" and someone who "is a big liberal" on climate change and drug issues. Weld has called climate change a dire threat to the nation and backed the use of medical marijuana for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Republican voters don't want what he's selling," the official said. "They want to support the president."

Weld has previously defended his decision to challenge Trump, saying in February that "Republicans in Washington want to have no election." His team acknowledges he faces an uphill climb but maintains that GOP voters deserve a choice in 2020.

"It is a long shot. But it's certainly less of a long shot than Donald Trump was when he announced and no one thought he was serious," Stuart Stevens, Weld's strategist and adviser since the 1980s, said in an interview. "Tonally, he's going to run a very different campaign. He's not mad at the world. He's not a victim."

Weld has been a fierce critic of Trump's nationalism and called it an outgrowth of movements of hate groups in Europe and elsewhere. He told the New Yorker in a recent interview that Trump uses a "dog whistle loud and clear" to win support from white supremacists and others.

Karl Merton Ferron / Tribune News Service

Colleagues of the five slain Capital Gazette employees were given a special citation for coverage of an attack on their own newsroom in Annapolis, Md. The newspaper still published on schedule the following day.

Pulitzer Prizes award top honors to coverage of three mass shootings

Md. paper lauded for reporting on newsroom attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – The South Florida Sun Sentinel and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette won Pulitzer Prizes on Monday and were recognized along with the Capital Gazette of Annapolis, Md., for their coverage of three horrifying mass shootings in 2018 at a high school, a synagogue and a newsroom itself.

The Associated Press won in the international reporting category for documenting the humanitarian horrors of Yemen's civil war, while the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal received Pulitzers for delving into President Donald Trump's finances and breaking open the hush-money scandals involving two women who said they had affairs with him.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel won the Pulitzer in public service for its coverage of the massacre that killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and for detailing the shortcomings in school discipline and security that contributed to the carnage.

The Post-Gazette received the prize in the breaking news category for its reporting on the synagogue shooting rampage that left 11 people dead. The man awaiting trial in the attack railed against Jews before, during and after the massacre, authorities said.

After the Pulitzer announcement, the newsroom observed a moment of silence for the victims.

"We are not so much celebrating as affirming … the job we were put on this earth to do," David Schribman, the now-retired executive editor who led the coverage, told the newsroom.

The Capital Gazette was given a special citation for its coverage and courage in the face of a massacre in its own newsroom. The newspaper published on schedule the day after the shooting claimed five staffers' lives, in one of the deadliest attacks on journalists in U.S. history.

The man charged in the shooting had a long-standing grudge against the paper. The Pulitzer board awarded Capital Gazette an extraordinary $100,000 grant to further its journalism.

The Pulitzers, U.S. journalism's highest honor, reflected a year when journalism increasingly came under attack in other ways.

Reuters won an international reporting award for work that cost two of its staffers their liberty: shedding light on a brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims by security forces in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo are serving a seven-year sentence after being convicted of violating the country's Official Secrets Act.

In the U.S., journalists have been contending with attacks on the media's integrity from the president down.

Monday's wins by the Times and the Wall Street Journal may provoke further ire from the president, who recently suggested the Times and the Washington Post should be stripped of the Pulitzers they won last year for coverage of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

This year, the Times was recognized for laying out how a president who has portrayed himself as a largely self-made man has, in fact, received more than $400 million in family money and helped his family avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes.

Trump, who has broken with presidential precedent by refusing to release his income tax returns, has called the Times exposé a false "hit piece."

The Journal revealed last year that then-candidate Trump's personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen had paid $130,000 in the run-up to his 2016 election to silence porn star Stormy Daniels, who said she had an affair with Trump.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Queen of Soul gets a Pulitzer

NEW YORK – Aretha Franklin received an honorary Pulitzer Prize on Monday, as judges praised the Queen of Soul "for her indelible contribution to American music and culture." Competitive Pulitzers were awarded to books about two other giants of American history: Frederick Douglass and Alain Locke.

David W. Blight's 900-page "Frederick Douglass" was named the best work of history, while the biography prize went to Jeffrey C. Stewart's "The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke." Richard Powers' innovative novel "The Overstory," which shows us the world through the perspective of nature, won for fiction.

The drama prize went to "Fairview," by Jackie Sibblies Drury, and Eliza Griswold's "Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America" won for general nonfiction. Ellen Reid's opera "p r i s m," which tackles sexual and emotional abuse, was given the music award, and Forrest Gander's elegiac "Be With" the poetry prize.

Franklin, who died last summer, was the first woman singled out for an honorary Pulitzer, which has been given to Bob Dylan and John Coltrane among others.

Loughlin, spouse plead not guilty

BOSTON – "Full House" actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, pleaded not guilty Monday to charges that they paid $500,000 in bribes to get their daughters into the University of Southern California.

The couple is among 50 prominent parents, athletic coaches and others charged in a sweeping college admissions bribery scam that has embroiled elite school across the country, such as Stanford, Georgetown and Yale.

Loughlin and Giannulli filed court documents Monday waiving their right to appear for an arraignment and entering not guilty pleas to the two charges against them. The judge granted their requests, meaning they will not have to show up at Boston's federal court to be arraigned.

Thirty-three wealthy parents were charged last month in what authorities have called the biggest college admissions case ever prosecuted by the Justice Department. They are accused of paying admissions consultant Rick Singer to rig standardized test scores and bribe college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools.

Loughlin and Giannulli are charged with paying bribes to have their daughters designated as crew recruits to USC, even though neither of them is a rower. Authorities say Loughlin and Giannulli helped create fake athletic profiles for the teens by sending Singer photos of their teens posing on rowing machines.

Firefighters get Collins' thanks

LONDON – Joan Collins has thanked firefighters for their quick response after a blaze erupted in her London apartment.

The 85-year-old actress shared video images of a charred wall on social media after the weekend fire. She also tweeted thanks to the "marvelous" firefighters who tackled the "terrifying" blaze.

Collins said her husband Percy Gibson was a "hero" for trying to douse the flames with a fire extinguisher.

The London Fire Brigade said Monday that the blaze in the ritzy Belgravia neighborhood was caused by sunlight reflecting off a shaving mirror and setting fire to a bathroom blind. It said such fires were a particular risk at this time of year.

From wire reports

Charges dropped against woman in alleged assault of Conway

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKVILLE, Md. – Prosecutors have dropped a criminal case against a Maryland woman who was charged with assaulting White House counselor Kellyanne Conway during a confrontation last year at a restaurant in a Washington suburb.

A trial for Mary Elizabeth Inabinett, 63, of Chevy Chase, was scheduled to start Monday morning in Montgomery County, Md. Instead, a county prosecutor asked a judge to dismiss the charges.

Police had charged Inabinett last November with second- degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Conway declined to comment on the dismissal.

Conway had told police she was attending a birthday party with her teenage daughter at a Mexican restaurant in Bethesda, Md., last October when she felt somebody grab her shoulders from behind and shake her. The woman who confronted Conway yelled, "Shame on you" and "other comments believed to be about Conway's political views," according to a charging document prepared by Montgomery County police.

Conway wasn't injured, the document says.

Montgomery County prosecutor Kathy Knight said Inabinett sent Conway a letter apologizing for the incident.

Conway

"She has apologized for choosing this time and place to vent her political views," Knight said. "That was inappropriate."

Knight noted Inabinett had never been arrested for a crime before.

Ramon Korionoff, a spokesman for the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office said dropping the charges is "the best resolution for this particular set of circumstances."

Maraya Pratt, an attorney for Inabinett, said Monday that she couldn't immediately comment. Another attorney for Inabinett, William Alden McDaniel, Jr., said in a statement in February that his client didn't assault Conway and was merely exercising her right to express her personal opinions about a public figure in a public place.

In a CNN interview earlier this year, Conway said she was standing next to her middle school-aged daughter and some of her daughter's friends when the woman began shaking her "to the point where I thought maybe somebody was hugging me." She said it felt "weird" and "a little aggressive," so she turned around to face the woman.

"She was just unhinged. She was out of control," she said. "Her whole face was terror and anger."

The restaurant's manager told police the woman who confronted Conway had to be forcibly removed from the premises. Conway told police the woman yelled and gestured at her for eight to 10 minutes before she was escorted out of the restaurant.

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Jackson Lee joins push to help migrant girl

Congresswoman calls for protection of 11-year-old ordered to be deported back to El Salvador without her family

By Ileana Najarro
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee announced her support for 11-year-old Laura Maradiaga, who was ordered deported without her family.

The news came as Silvia Mintz, Laura's lawyer, turned in a motion to reopen the girl's deportation case on Monday, which came about due to a clerical error within immigration court, Mintz said.

Laura, who is seeking asylum along with her mother and older sister, attended a scheduled court appearance March 12 when a translator told the family Laura was not listed on the day's docket. The girl was then issued a deportation order for failing to appear in court.

Mintz is hopeful the judge will reopen the case but is otherwise prepared to go to the Board of Immigration Appeals if needed. In the meantime, FIEL, a local immigration advocacy group, started a fundraiser to financially support the Maradiaga family.

"This is so unjust because Laura is 11 years old and if she were to be deported to her native El Salvador, she would not have anybody waiting for her in her country," said Cesar Espinosa, executive director of FIEL.

Jackson Lee, D-Houston, who serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security, received a privacy form from FIEL at a news conference Monday that will allow her to look into the girl's case.

Migrant continues on A6

Ileana Najarro / Staff

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, second from right, joins a news conference to announce her support for 11-year-old Laura Maradiaga.

Yoga practice makes perfect form

Mark Mulligan / Staff photographer

Jordan Dunn-Ridgill takes advantage of the sunny, temperate afternoon in Houston to practice some yoga and capoeira-inspired movement Monday at Menil Park. Both he and his brother, Austin, make their livings teaching yoga, but when they come out to the park they try to combine elements they've gleaned from several different movement practices.

Turner to give financial info to fire union

Data would provide verification pay raises honor Proposition B

By Jasper Scherer and Robert Downen
STAFF WRITERS

Mayor Sylvester Turner told the Houston fire union Monday he would provide it with financial data leaders requested, a sign of progress at a critical point in negotiations between the mayor and the union to phase in Proposition B raises for firefighters.

Officials from the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association have asked Turner to open the city's books, allowing firefighters to verify that the mayor's offer to phase in the pay raises over multiple years honors the terms of the charter amendment, which requires the city to pay firefighters the same as police of corresponding rank and seniority.

Turner's refusal to do so has been a key sticking point preventing a deal, union President Marty Lancton said.

The development comes two days before City Council is scheduled to consider a measure to lay off 220 firefighters, which Turner has said is necessary to offset the cost of pay raises if Proposition B is not phased in over multiple years.

Councilman Dwight Boykins said Monday he would use a procedural maneuver to delay a vote on the layoffs if the fire union has not received the city's underlying financial data by then.

The meeting was the second in four days between Turner and representatives from the fire union. On Friday, Lancton said he would seek union members' approval of Turner's offer to phase in raises over three and a half years if the city meets certain conditions.

Turner spokesman Alan Bernstein said the mayor on Monday provided information the union had requested last week. The

Prop B continues on A6

Why did Garcia break into tears in hearing?

U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary

Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, gets emotional in a hearing.

Houston Dem calls for change, invoking 2006 local hate crime

By Olivia P. Tallet
STAFF WRITER

Sylvia Garcia has been in the public eye for decades, but rarely has the first-term congresswoman from Houston displayed the kind of raw emotion seen when a video of her testimony at a committee hearing went viral this week.

Garcia, a Democrat who previously served as a state senator, Harris County commissioner, municipal court chief judge and Houston city controller, had to briefly stop speaking last week while talking about the case of David Ritcheson, a Houstonian who died by suicide at age 18 in 2007. A year earlier, Ritcheson, who was Hispanic, was assaulted, tortured and sodomized by white supremacists who taunted him with racial slurs.

In an interview, Garcia said she grew emotional at the hearing because "it's appalling to think about what this young man went through, beaten to a pulp just for being a Mexican-American Latino, and here we are 12 years later still dealing with the same issues of hate, which is growing in the country."

"This is unacceptable," she said. "We should be getting better at this, not worse."

The hearing was scheduled before the House Judiciary Committee after civil right advocates asked Congress to investigate the rise of hate incidents and concerns over domestic terrorism and growing activism from white supremacist groups.

"We have gotten a lot of complaints in my offices; we are seeing more incidents in Harris County, in my district, that we believe are hate incidents" during the last couple of years, Garcia said. She said she was aware of many incidents involving stu-

Garcia continues on A6

Court dismisses another drug case in fallout from fatal botched raid

By Keri Blakinger and St. John Barned-Smith
STAFF WRITERS

A Harris County court on Monday tossed out yet another drug case over links to the officers at the center of the botched Pecan Park drug raid that left a couple dead and five officers injured.

The dismissed felony charge against Xavier Womack hinged on claims that former narcotics officer Steven Bryant – who recently retired under investigation – spotted the Houston man going in and out of a supposed drug house.

But Womack's defense attorney, Lisa Andrews, says she repeatedly told prosecutors that her client was never at the scene, and it wasn't until after the outcome at Pecan Park sparked broader questions about police handling of drug cases that the Harris County District Attorney's Office agreed to drop Womack's drug charge.

"The officers were lying," Andrews told the Houston Chronicle on Monday. "But for the unfortunate circumstances (at Pecan Park) I would be hoping to convince a jury of these facts against the word of two police officers."

Case continues on A6

Melissa Phillip / Staff file photo

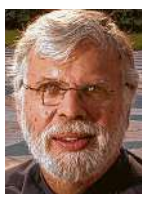
A January no-knock raid at this home on Harding Street left a couple dead and five officers injured.

Notre Dame fire stuns area clergy

By Nicole Hensley
STAFF WRITER

From thousands of miles away in Houston, the Rev. Ted Baenziger watched Monday as a catastrophic inferno ravaged the storied Cathedral of Notre Dame where he has celebrated Mass dozens of times.

The 72-year-old Basilian order priest was most fearful that the ornate stained-glass rose windows that he had come to adore from his time at the 12th-century house of worship had been destroyed. The southernmost window was gifted to the cathedral by King St. Louis in 1260, Baenziger said.



Baenziger

"I'm just devastated by the damage that's been done to this place," said Baenziger, a French professor emeritus at the University of St. Thomas. "They were two of the most extraordinary stained-glass windows that I've ever seen in my life."

One of the greatest honors Baenziger described was getting to know the historic cathedral from having celebrated Mass there more than two dozen times in front of awestruck globetrotters and from guiding more than 40 tours – the

Cathedral continues on A6

NTSB panel looking to get tough on distracted driving

By Dug Begley
STAFF WRITER

Road safety advocates in Houston on Thursday said an all-out blitz of stricter laws, tougher enforcement, driver education and incentives is needed to combat a growing epidemic of distracted drivers that is killing an estimated 3,600 people annually across America.

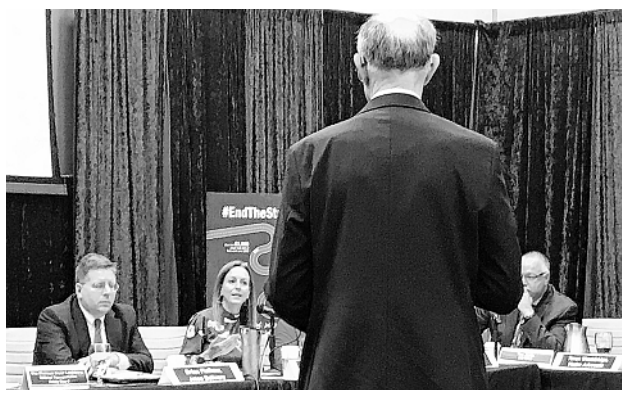
"That is a 9-11 event every year," said Lt. Craig Cummings with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The problem is especially pronounced in Houston, which a study released Wednesday found was the most distracted metropolitan area behind the wheel.

Police, trucking industry representatives, victims of distracted driving crashes and regional officials joined the National Transportation Safety Board for a roundtable discussion Thursday at Houston Food Bank. Broadcast nationally as part of the NTSB's efforts during Distracted Driving Month, the session was intended to solicit ideas for reducing distracted driving in a climate that sometimes treats it as a minor issue and laws aimed at curtailing it as nanny-state rule-making.

"Killing and injuring others is not about personal freedom," said Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the NTSB, who led the five-hour session.

Panelists reached a broad consensus that phone use was addictive for some drivers, and tougher laws, technology improvements and cultural changes to driving are needed. That includes holding family members accountable when they misuse phones while driving, and expecting lawmakers and technology companies to do everything they can to prevent tragedies with tougher laws or phones that disable themselves in the driver's seat.



Dug Begley / Staff

Jennifer Smith, director of Stop Distractions, addresses NTSB Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg.

Fort Worth resident Jennifer Zamora, who lost her husband in a 2007 crash when a distracted driver hit him head-on, said people need to treat distraction as seriously as they do drunken or drugged driving.

"To me, there is no difference," she said. "To me, the action is the same. You intentionally broke the code of safety to driving."

Studies estimate about 10 percent of all fatal crashes in the nation involve some form of distraction. For the Houston region, that has meant about 66 to 70 fatalities annually since 2013, based on an analysis last year by the Houston Chronicle, which found the Houston region is the most dangerous major metro area in the nation for roadway fatalities.

The Houston area also was the most distracted major city in a study released Wednesday by Zendrive, which monitors phone use by drivers, specifically in commercial fleets and delivery companies. Researchers found drivers in the Houston region used their phones 9.4 percent of the time they were driving.

The clear difference in terms of phone use behind the wheel was what sort of laws existed in the area. In places such as Houston, Dallas, Detroit and Denver where laws are less strict, people spent more time using their devices. In Seattle, Portland, New York and Atlanta – where there are bans on holding a phone while driving – use was around 7 to 7.3 percent of the time behind the wheel.

The findings, however, show mixed results. Tougher laws lead to less use, but not widespread abandonment of phones while driving. Still, many argue Texas needs tougher laws. The state banned texting while driving in 2017, but did so with numerous exceptions allowing uses of a handheld phone, including talking on it while driving.

Landsberg said voters are key. Studies show most people support tougher laws about phone use and other types of distracted driving, even if many of those same supporters continue their bad habits. That support, he said, must be communicated to lawmakers, who then should be held accountable for better laws.

"The legislators have as much responsibility as anybody else and they should be held accountable to pass sensible laws that most people agree on," he said.

Laws, however, cannot be the only efforts, police and safety experts agreed.

"We need the carrot and the stick," said Jennifer Smith, executive director of Stop Distractions, an advocacy group.

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Boy killed in wreck was big Harden fan

By Julian Gill
STAFF WRITER

Jo'Anthony Harrison couldn't wait to join the basketball team at Aldine Middle School.

The sixth-grader would be eligible to play on the school team next year, and he had already brought home the documents he needed for his physical exam. It would have been the boy's first major step toward his dream of playing in the NBA like his idol, Rockets star James Harden.

Latonya Harrison was ready to take those steps with her son but instead is mourning his death.

Jo'Anthony was in the back seat of his sister's Chevrolet Trailblazer on Thursday night when an Infiniti smashed into the back of the SUV, which had stalled on the Tomball Parkway, Harrison said. He died the next day.

"His dream was to be like that man with the beard – Harden," Harrison said. "He could tell you his whole background – how many balls he rebounded, how many points he had. ... Every game that man played in, he could tell you his stats."

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is still investigating the crash. The driver who rear-ended Jo'Anthony's vehicle is suspected of intoxication, but investigators are waiting on the toxicology report to file charges.

Harrison said her adopted 24-year-old daughter was driving the Trailblazer while Jo'Anthony, her biological son, sat in the back seat behind her. Police initially said he was riding in the front passenger seat. Harrison's 2-year-old grandson was buckled into a child safety seat on the back passenger side.

Harrison said the group had visited her at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital, where she had just been admitted. She was on the phone with her daughter when the Trailblazer stalled on the highway near High Life Drive. Her daughter activated the emergency lights and pulled over to the shoulder.

They were still talking on the phone when the Infiniti smashed into the car on the rear left side about 11 p.m., Harrison said. Jo'Anthony had been wearing his seat belt the entire drive but decided to briefly remove it when the car stopped, she said.

Latonya Harrison's daughter and grandson were sore and bruised up after the wreck but ultimately released from the hospital. They were both wearing restraints, she said.

On Monday, Harrison recalled the last thing she said to Jo'Anthony when he visited her in her hospital room.

"Little did I know that would be the last day singing to my son, telling him how much I loved him," she said. "I was just singing, 'I love my baby boy.'"

Wrongfully convicted man closer to answer on compensation

By Keri Blakinger
STAFF WRITER

Forty-five days after a special prosecutor deemed Alfred Dewayne Brown innocent, the former death row prisoner is still waiting for a court to greenlight the paperwork.

But the end may finally be in sight.

In a court hearing Monday, state District Judge George Powell promised a decision by April 29, after he grapples with questions both of Brown's innocence and of whether his court has jurisdiction to re-dismiss an already closed case, this time with the proper wording to ensure the wrongfully convicted Harris County man can get compensation for the 12 years he spent behind bars.

Brown was sent to death row in 2005 for the killing of Houston Police Officer Charles Clark during a botched robbery of a check-cashing store. He spent a decade awaiting execution before his conviction was tossed after a police investigator turned over evidence – phone records that might have confirmed Brown's alibi – found in his garage during spring cleaning.

Afterward, Brown was released from prison but denied state compensation for his time behind bars because then-District Attorney Devon Anderson didn't deem him "actually innocent" when she moved to dismiss the case.

So Brown filed a federal lawsuit against the the district attorney, the county, the prosecutor and police. The district attorney's office found evidence of possible past prosecutorial misconduct, and the new District Attorney Kim Ogg appointed attorney John Raley as a special prosecutor to reinvestigate the case.

After a 10-month probe, Raley issued a 179-page report finding Brown actually innocent.

That same day, prosecutors filed an amended motion to dismiss the case, this time specifically noting Brown's innocence. But Powell didn't immediately sign the motion, and instead set Monday's court date to hear from the parties involved – including Raley, Ogg and attorney Neal Manne, who represents Brown in his quest for state compensation.

In friend-of-the-court briefs filed during the weeks leading up to the hearing, attorneys wrestled with whether Powell has jurisdiction to dismiss a case that's already been tossed out, and the Houston police union filed a short brief maintaining that he didn't.

"Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has decided that once a court signs an order of dismissal and discharges the accused in a criminal case," union attorneys wrote, citing a 1980 case, "the case is no longer pending and there is no remaining jurisdiction in the dismissing court to issue orders related to the case."

During Monday's hearing, to which the judge arrived two hours late, Ogg, Raley and Manne argued that the court did have jurisdiction. To make that point, the attorneys cited two previous cases that ended in a similar manner, with an amended motion to dismiss in light of evidence of actual innocence.

"Statutes should be interpreted in a way that makes sense," Raley said, arguing that it wouldn't make sense to have a law allowing for compensation if the wrongly convicted can't make use of it.

But Powell's questioning didn't focus on concerns over jurisdiction; instead, he zeroed in on whether Brown is truly innocent, pointing out that there was no DNA to exonerate him.

In response, Raley highlighted some of the key findings of his report, including a focus on the two alibi witnesses who never changed their stories and the fact that Brown's height didn't match multiple descriptions of the suspects.

"Under the current legal standard," Ogg added, "Alfred Brown is legally innocent; he's actually innocent."

If the judge refuses to sign the amended dismissal, it could be unprecedented, attorneys said in court Monday.

"The court would be the first in the state of Texas," Raley said, "to decline an actual innocence claim when requested by the DA."

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Fire at Foreman's home accidental

By Julian Gill
STAFF WRITER

A golf cart caught fire Sunday night inside a garage at boxing legend George Foreman's house in the Huffman area, according to the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

The cause was determined to be accidental, fire marshal spokeswoman Rachel Moreno said.

Foreman posted about the fire on social media that night.

"Don't worry all is well," he said in a Twitter post. "Dogs are barking, and I don't mean my feet. Thanks to all the fire fighters. Huffman, Houston New Caney. Atascosita."

The fire was mostly contained to the golf cart, and only a small area of the building was burned, Moreno said. The garage contained about 40 cars, and most only had smoke and water damage, she said.

The fire was first reported around 10 p.m. at Foreman's house in the 29500 block of Martelly Way. No one was seriously injured.

"The fire department did a good job of containing the fire only to the garage," Moreno said.

She said people were home at the time, but she didn't know whether Foreman was inside.

The fire comes about a month after the death of Foreman's daughter, Freeda Foreman, found March 8 in her Houston- area home. Medical examiners ruled her death a suicide.

Property tax reform passes the Senate

By Jeremy Wallace
AUSTIN BUREAU

A plan to limit how much local governments can raise property taxes on homeowners lurched to life on Monday in the Texas Legislature after a 14-week stalemate.

The Texas Senate passed a plan along mostly partisan lines that would bar school districts from increasing property tax collections by more than 2.5 percent without an election and block cities and counties from collecting more than 3.5 percent year-over-year without a vote. Currently, cities and counties can grow by 8 percent before voters have even a chance to fight the increase at the ballot box.

But while Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick acknowledged the plan still has "a long way to go" to clear the Legislature, he said it still represents a major step in fulfilling his promise to help homeowners struggling under the burden of ever-increasing property taxes. The average Texas homeowner pays 2.18 percent of his home's value each year, the third-highest rate in the U.S., according to a study by property data warehouse ATTOM.

"What they want is tax relief and my job as lieutenant governor is keeping my promise to people," Patrick said. "And that's what we did today."

The Legislature is exploring other ways to address property taxes, too. One alternative calls for a $2 billion reduction in Texas school taxes, which make up more than 50 percent of property tax bills. Yet another proposal would cut property taxes but increase the sales tax by a percentage point, pushing it from 8.25 percent in most communities to 9.25 percent.

Local governments say the plan the Senate approved provides minimal property tax relief, but still jeopardizes critical city services such as police and fire protection.

The proposal does not actually cut current tax bills, and the caps would not apply to all local governments. Those with $15 million or less of tax revenue collections would be exempt from the cap, though the bill that passed the Senate offers voters in those places a chance to opt in.

On Monday, leaders in the Senate revised the bill to raise the cap on local governments to 3.5 percent. State Sen. Kel Seliger, a Republican and former Amarillo mayor, announced that he would no longer block the bill. The bill passed the Senate hours later on an 18-13 vote, with Seliger joining the 12 Democrats in opposing the bill.

While the bill passed the Senate, it is far from done. Next up is the Texas House, which has yet to pass a property tax reform bill. The House and Senate must pass identical bills to change the law.

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MIGRANT

From page A3

"I think people are rightly outraged to even suspect that our process would deport an 11-year-old by herself," Jackson Lee said.

The congresswoman noted that the Maradiaga family is just one of the numerous cases of mothers and children from Central America fleeing violence as they seek asylum in the United States. She recounted the death threat Laura's family faced in their hometown. That threat, said Laura's mother, Dora Alvarado, has grown now that the gangs in their hometown are aware of the family's case.

Alvarado, 15-year-old Adamaris Alvarado and Laura were all taken into custody by immigration officials at the southern border late last year. They were then processed and released and later met every appointed court date.

"People are rightly outraged ... that our process would deport an 11-year-old by herself."

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

"Legally they have the right to seek asylum," Jackson Lee said.

Jackson Lee added that the state of immigration courts in Houston and across the country is largely to blame for Laura's deportation order.

"Those of us who are fighting to have a real comprehensive immigration solution have indicated to the president that rather than walls, what we need are more judges and more clerks," she said. Those working now "are heavily burdened because of the lack of resources to do their job."

At Monday's news conference, Laura said she feels happy that people are coming forward to help her and her family. As of Monday afternoon, the FIEL fundraiser for her had collected more than $10,600.

Yet the threat of being taken away from her mother and sister remains.

"I'm still afraid," she said.

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GOP bill alleges social media bias

By Sami Sparber
AUSTIN BUREAU

Texas Republicans say Facebook routinely muzzles Christians and conservatives by banning them, shutting down their pages and preventing them from promoting posts. Those claims of bias are now headed to the state Senate as lawmakers debate a bill that threatens social media companies with lawsuits if they censor users based on their viewpoint.

"It appears that certain speech that Facebook doesn't like gets treated differently than speech that they do like," said state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, whose Senate Bill 2373 was approved 7-0 by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, abstained.

Hughes said he filed the bill after Facebook did not let him pay to promote a post containing a Bible verse. He said he has also heard from a Baptist church in Allen that was not allowed to promote a Facebook post about Easter services. And members of the Texas Senate Republican Caucus were rebuffed by Facebook when they tried to promote an ad for anti-abortion legislation, he said.

Similar complaints prompted a congressional hearing last week, when Republican Texas Sen. Ted Cruz grilled Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on the platform's content decisions.

"There are a great many Americans who I think are concerned Facebook and other tech companies are engaged in a pervasive pattern of bias and political censorship," Cruz said.

Zuckerberg said he is dedicated to making sure Facebook is a "platform for all ideas."

"This is actually a concern that I have, and that I try to root out in the company, is making sure that we don't have any bias in the work that we do, and I think it is a fair concern that people would at least wonder about," he said.

At the same time, after Facebook flagged the page of two conservative bloggers, known as Diamond and Silk, as "unsafe to the community," Zuckerberg admitted that "our team made an enforcement error, and we have already gotten in touch with them to reverse it."

Hughes' bill would provide consumer protection penalties to social media companies if they market themselves as viewpoint-neutral but restrict users' speech based on its content. Under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, companies found in violation of the new law could be sued by the Texas attorney general's office.

"If you publicly say, 'We are content-neutral. We do not censor based on religious or political speech,' we are going to hold you to that," Hughes said.

Last year, in an effort to be more transparent, Facebook published its rules for moderating posts, which were once kept secret, and introduced an appeals process for users who believe that their content was taken down unfairly. Andy Stone, policy communications manager for Facebook, said he was unable to comment on the posts Hughes mentioned.

CJ Grisham, founder of Open Carry Texas, testified in support of SB 2373 on Monday. He said Facebook has repeatedly censored his organization even though it adheres to the platform's terms of service.

"We've lost 16 Facebook groups that have been shut down arbitrarily by Facebook," Grisham said. "We don't allow hate speech. ... We don't say anything violent, we don't encourage violence, yet myself and our organization is routinely targeted."

Representatives of the technology industry testified against the bill, raising concerns that the legislation's "vague" language could bring about unnecessary lawsuits and burden Texas courts with policing social media.

"Companies review millions of pieces of content every week, and while they don't and can't always get it right, they work to ensure there is no bias in content decisions and take equal steps to improve their processes," testified Sarah Matz, director of state government affairs for the Computing Technology Industry Association in Texas. "We're concerned this bill would create, unintentionally, an onslaught of frivolous lawsuits. ... And this doesn't seem like the Texas thing to do."

CATHEDRAL

From page A3

last one in the summer of 2018 – within its sandstone walls. His tours at the one of the world's most visited landmarks focused on the French-Gothic architecture of the church and the role that Notre Dame – and the ground where it stands – has had as a sacred space, he said.

"I feel very privileged," Baenziger said. "I see that it's going to be a long time before we do Mass again in that cathedral."

Firefighters were struggling to save the structure as Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, head of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, mourned the damage. The flames had just toppled the iconic 19th-century spire. But fire crews soon stopped the blaze from spreading to the northern belfry.

"This particular cathedral is not only a majestic church, it is also a world treasure," DiNardo said in a written statement. "Noble in architecture and art, it has long been a symbol of the transcendent human spirit as well as our longing for God."

The cause of the fire was not yet known Monday evening but Parisian fire officials believed it to be accidental and possibly linked to the $6.8 million renovation project that the cathedral's spire – comprised of 250 tons of lead – was undergoing.

DiNardo shared his condolences to Parisians and Archbishop Michel Aupetit of Paris, who called on the nation's clergy to ring church bells for the cathedral.

"We pray for all the people of France, entrusting all to the prayers and intercession of the Mother of God, especially the firefighters battling the fire," DiNardo added.

DiNardo, 69, penned the message on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops while recovering from a stroke that left him hospitalized on March 15. He is still undergoing rehabilitation, an archdiocese spokeswoman said.

Alexis Andres, Consul General of France in Houston, wrote on Twitter that he was grateful to the firefighters and the many people who shared expressions of hope and solidarity. He also said the cathedral would be restored.

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GARCIA

From page A3

dents subjected to hateful phrases and slurs at school and in their neighborhoods for being Hispanic or Mexican-American, "including the pervasive insult of telling them, 'go back to Mexico,' even though many of them are American citizens."

The latest FBI annual report on hate crimes, developed with voluntary reporting by law enforcement agencies nationwide, showed that the incidents grew 17 percent overall in 2017 from the previous year.

Those involving anti-Hispanic bias increased more than 24 percent in that period. Anti-Jewish incidents increased by 37 percent and anti-black events by 16 percent.

Most incidents, 59.6 percent, involved a race, ethnicity or ancestry bias. Religion bias was a factor in 20.6 percent; sexual orientation in 15.8 percent; disability in 1.9 percent; gender identity in 1.6 percent; and gender in 0.6 percent.

Slightly more than half of the offenders were white.

Garcia asked Google and Facebook representatives at the hearing to explain what they were doing to curtail the use of their platforms to promote hate. They said they were starting to use algorithms and other tools to track hate trends.

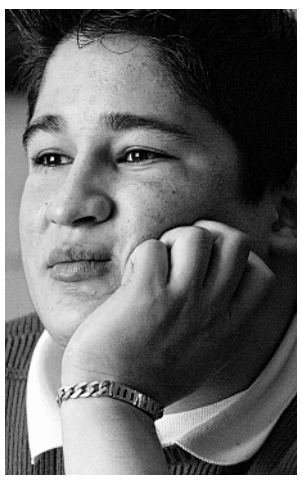
"Well, I hope you do more," she said.

Garcia said she would like to see laws requiring more monitoring and transparency in targeting and responding to hate incidents.

"We have to balance this with the First Amendment to protect free speech, while also protecting victims of hate, but there are exceptions to it such as when speech incites violence," Garcia said.

The Anti-Defamation League, one of the organizations called to testify before the committee, released a national survey in February indicating that the scale and complexity of online hate had reached unprecedented levels with sustained online harassment campaigns against journalists and personalities and racist attacks against students.

The survey found that 37 percent of Americans have experienced severe online harassment, compared with the 18 percent that reported so in a similar question in a 2017 study by the Pew Research Center.



Karen Warren / Staff file photo

David Ritcheson, the victim of a Spring pipe beating attack in 2006, died by suicide in 2007.

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PROP B

From page A3

union asked for additional details at Monday's meeting, he said.

"That information is being gathered and will be provided, as well," Bernstein said in a statement. "Discussions are ongoing."

Fire Chief Sam Peña said he was "encouraged" by Monday's talks, even if they did not produce immediate results.

"Anytime we're sitting at the table and having a conversation is progress," he said.

Peña said he was not sure whether Wednesday's scheduled council vote would be delayed, but the department is moving ahead with implementation of Proposition B anyway.

"The process needs to move forward, because the books do need to be balanced by the end of the fiscal year" in June, he said. Among the biggest changes Peña has sought is a switch from a four-shift work schedule for firefighters to three. Currently, firefighters work 20 24-hour shifts every 72 days, with occasional extra shifts for which Peña has said there is a high absentee rate.

The three-shift model would give firefighters regular days off. Peña said he was considering that switch even before Proposition B's passage as a way to save money that could be reinvested in fleet upgrades, among other things. Now, he said, it is about maintaining public safety while confronting HFD's roughly $25 million share of Proposition B's annual costs.

The proposal headed to council on Wednesday shows that most of the staff reductions would come from firefighters, engineers and captains, though Peña said that absent any phase-in agreement, some employees could be demoted instead of having their positions absorbed through attrition.

Lancton and the union have decried the move and said it will negatively impact public safety.

The union's terms for taking the mayor's offer to a union vote include a guarantee that no firefighters would be laid off "before, during or after implementation of Proposition B."

The city on April 4 issued 60-day layoff notices to 67 fire cadets. The administration also sent pink slips last Friday to 47 municipal employees across four departments: Administration and Regulatory Affairs, Health, Library and Parks and Recreation.

Union officials also said any phase-in agreement would have to be ratified through a collective bargaining agreement, and that the Turner administration must provide firefighters with "complete access to city financial and budget information" and implement "complete parity," including base and incentive pay, with Houston police officers.

Turner would also need to agree not to reduce fire and EMS services, Lancton said.

In a letter sent to Lancton on Monday, Turner wrote that he is committed to working out a collective bargaining agreement.

"That will require the parties sitting down to negotiate terms that are not covered by Prop B," the mayor wrote. "At the same time, the city must move forward with balancing its budget before the end of June. If the parties can reach an agreement on Prop B, it can subsequently be included in a future collective bargaining agreement."

Turner added that he considers Proposition B "very vague and ambiguous on parity."

"Having said that," Turner continued, "the city looks to the requirements a police officer must meet to attain a certain position and pay and applies the same requirements to a firefighter in the same or similar position."

Other departments across the nation have faced similar dilemmas, according to Mike McEvoy, an expert on emergency management services.

McEvoy said Monday that there is a negligible effect on public safety when departments switch from three to four shifts, the latter of which he described as a luxury for better-financed departments.

Lancton, meanwhile, has pointed to a city-commissioned study that concluded a switch to three shifts could not produce "appreciable cost savings." Peña has said he disagrees with the report's conclusion because it lacks evidence, while Turner commonly cites a second report commissioned by the city that recommended a reduction in the number of firefighters.

More worrisome than the shift change, McEvoy said, are any changes in response time for HFD firetrucks.

"Any time you make a reduction, there's going to be a little bit longer response time," he said.

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CASE

From page A3

The dismissal marks at least the fifth case dropped in the fallout from the Jan. 28 bust, which was unrelated to Womack's arrest and prosecution. In addition to Bryant, former Officer Gerald Goines is also under investigation and recently retired from the Houston Police Department.

Both the district attorney spokesman and lawyers for the two officers at the center of the investigation did not immediately offer comment on the dismissal.

The arrest that started Womack's case came in 2017, when police said they'd been surveilling a house and had seen the South Side man coming and going, Andrews said. Afterward, police searched the place and arrested someone they believed to be Womack.

"However, when they executed the search warrant, my client was not present at the target house, and they arrested someone else they believed was my client," Andrews said. "That told me they never really saw my client at the house."

When prosecutors realized that, they dropped charges against the other man and instead collared Womack, saying he'd been at the scene.

"I told the DA's office all of this from day one, and of course they chose to believe the officers' version," Andrews said. "Because of that, I set it for trial."

Court records show the 2017 arrest was dismissed because of an "investigation pending against investigating officers." The charge was possession with intent to deliver between 4 and 200 grams of cocaine.

The police involved in the arrest came under scrutiny earlier this year after investigators accused 54-year-old Goines of lying on the search warrant affidavit used to justify a no-knock raid at 7815 Harding Street. When officers burst in the home that evening in search of a heroin dealer, they kicked off a gun battle that left dead Dennis Tuttle, his wife Rhogena Nicholas, and a pit bull they'd been dog-sitting.

But the raid netted no heroin and only a small amount of cocaine and marijuana, and the slain couple's friends and neighbors have repeatedly maintained that they weren't drug dealers.

Days later, as Goines lay in the hospital recovering from a gunshot wound to the neck, investigators realized they couldn't find the confidential informant behind the alleged heroin buy that started it all.

When asked for details, Goines first named one informant and then another, but, according to court filings, police couldn't find anyone who admitted acting as the confidential informant before the raid. Instead, all of Goines' informants said they'd never met Tuttle or Nicholas.

That revelation pushed the police department to retool policies around the use of no-knock raids, and also sparked investigations by police, prosecutors and the FBI. In addition to probing the possibility of criminal wrongdoing, prosecutors launched a review of more than 2,000 cases handled by Goines and Bryant, both of whom retired under investigation.

Almost as soon as prosecutors announced their case review, a Harris County judged signed off on the dismissal of a drug case against Courtney Jacobs. In the weeks that followed, at least three more drug cases against other defendants were dismissed.

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Trump steps up attacks on Mueller report

Redacted version is expected to be released Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The president isn't waiting. As Washington counts down the final hours until publication of the redacted special counsel report – now expected Thursday – Donald Trump stepped up his attacks Monday in an effort to undermine potential disclosures on Russia, his 2016 campaign and the aftermath.

He unleashed a series of tweets focusing on the previously released summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's conclusions, including a crucial one on obstruction of justice that Trump again misrepresented. The summary was produced by Attorney General William Barr.

"Mueller, and the A.G. based on Mueller findings (and great intelligence), have already ruled No Collusion, No Obstruction," Trump tweeted. "These were crimes committed by Crooked Hillary, the DNC, Dirty Cops and others! INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS!"

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders repeatedly tried to make the same case on TV talk shows Sunday. But the political battle is far from finished over the special counsel's investigation of Russian efforts to help Trump in 2016 and whether there was cooperation with his campaign.

Democrats are calling for Mueller to testify before Congress and have expressed concern that Barr will order unnecessary censoring of the report to protect the president. The House Judiciary Committee, led by Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., is poised to try to compel Barr to turn over an unredacted copy as well as the report's underlying investigative files.

The Justice Department announced Monday that it expects to release the redacted version Thursday morning, sending the findings of the nearly two-year investigation to Congress and making them available to the public.

Barr

Mueller officially concluded his investigation late last month and submitted the confidential report to Barr. Two days later, the attorney general sent Congress a four-page letter that detailed Mueller's "principal conclusions."

In his letter, Barr said the special counsel did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump associates during the campaign. However, contrary to Trump's false claim, Mueller did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Instead, Mueller presented evidence on both sides of that question. Barr said he did not believe the evidence was sufficient to prove that Trump had obstructed justice, but he noted that Mueller's team did not exonerate the president.

Portions of the report being released by the Justice Department will be redacted to protect grand jury material, sensitive intelligence, matters that could affect ongoing investigations and damage to the privacy rights of third parties, the attorney general has said.

Trump's inner circle knows there will likely be further releases of embarrassing or politically damaging information. Barr's letter, for instance, hinted that there would be at least one unknown action by the president that Mueller examined as a possible act of obstruction. A number of White House aides have privately said they are eager for all Russia stories, good or bad, to fade from the headlines. And there is fear among some presidential confidants that the rush to spike the football in celebration could backfire if bombshell new information emerges.

Trump and his allies also continue to attack the origins of the Russia investigation, portraying it as an effort by Democrats and career officials in the Justice Department to bring him down.

The Russia inquiry began July 31, 2016, when the FBI opened a counterintelligence investigation into Russia's efforts to influence the presidential campaign and whether anyone on the Trump campaign was involved. That probe was prompted by former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos' contacts with Russian intermediaries, including a Maltese professor who told the young aide that the Russians had dirt on Clinton.

War of words continues between Muslim legislator, Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump isn't backing down from his tweets about Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, one of the first Muslim women to serve in Congress.

In fact, he spoke at an event in Omar's home state of Minnesota on Monday amid a ferocious fight over her comments about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Omar, a Somali-American, says it's more than a rhetorical squabble and that lives, including hers, are at stake. Trump says national security is at issue and Omar is "ungrateful."

Omar told a Los Angeles gathering of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on March 23 that many Muslims saw their civil liberties eroded after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"For far too long we have lived with the discomfort of being a second-class citizen and, frankly, I'm tired of it, and every single Muslim in this country should be tired of it," she said in the speech, according to video posted online. "CAIR was founded after 9/11, because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties."

The president on Friday retweeted a video that pulled "some people did something" from Omar's speech and included news footage of the hijacked planes hitting the Twin Towers. Trump also tweeted, "WE WILL NEVER FORGET!"

Omar says she's faced increased death threats since Trump spread around a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Kerem Yucel / AFP/Getty Images

Supporters of Rep. Ilhan Omar gather Monday with a chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Burnsville, Minn.

"This is endangering lives," she said, accusing Trump of fomenting extremism. "It has to stop."

Her statement late Sunday followed an announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she has taken steps to ensure the safety of the Minnesota Democrat. Pelosi also urged Trump to take down the video.

The video soon disappeared as a pinned tweet at the top of Trump's Twitter feed, but it was not deleted.

Trump further escalated his rhetoric Monday morning, tweeting that, "Before Nancy, who has lost all control of Congress and is getting nothing done, decides to defend her leader, Rep. Omar, she should look at the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel and ungrateful U.S. HATE statements Omar has made."

On Monday, Pelosi condemned Trump's remarks: "I don't think any president of the United States should use the tragedy of 9/11 as a political tool. I think that is wrong; I think it's beneath the dignity of the office."

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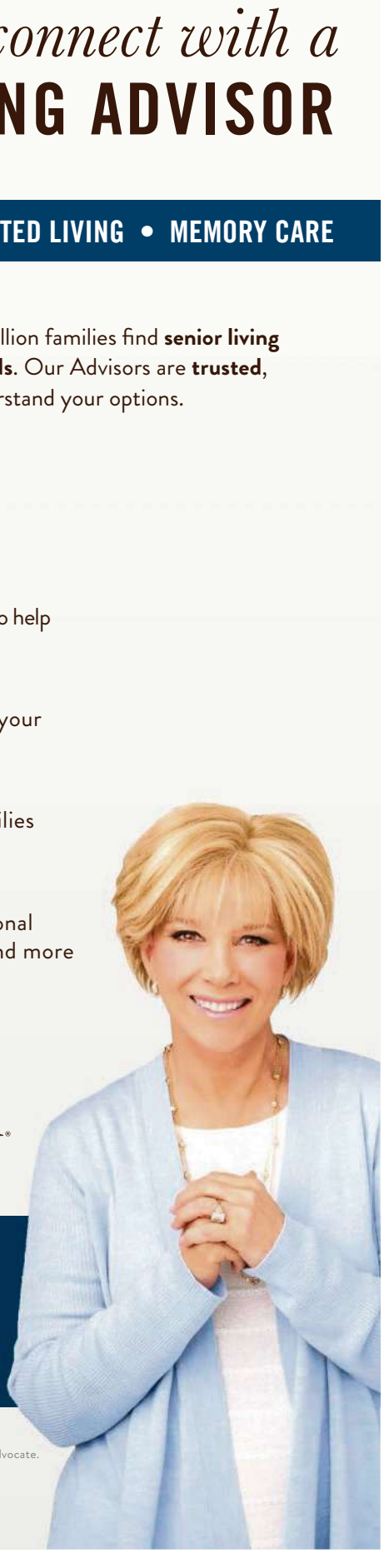

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FROM THE COVER

Karen Warren / Staff file photo

Buffalo Bayou overflows, flooding Memorial Drive and Allen Parkway, as heavy rains fall from Hurricane Harvey on Aug. 28, 2017. Two reports by the Greater Houston Flood Mitigation Consortium urge Houstonians to think of flooding as a problem to be addressed with the help of smart development policy.

FLOODING

From page A1

city and county minimum detention requirements. It also recommends a closer look at runoff in undeveloped watersheds and creation of specific criteria for building there.

The second report looks more broadly at varied development regulations, advocating better communication of flood risks to residents, increased use of green infrastructure and continued consideration of what to do with flood-prone homes.

Any additional development rules would potentially face opposition from the real estate industry. Industry groups lobbied against the city's stricter elevation requirements, which the City Council approved by a 9-7 vote a year ago, although the industry supported requirements approved in December 2017 by Harris County commissioners.

The real estate industry has long argued that additional rules increase the costs of housing in a city that touts affordability as a key to its success.

"Overly stringent regulations can solve flooding and create an affordable housing crisis," said Auggie Campbell, a co-founder of Houston Stronger, a business- and real estate-backed organization looking at flooding and development issues.

Ecological, social and economic impacts should be considered, and better data is needed before policy is amended, said Campbell, who said he was speaking for himself and not the organization.

In a statement, city officials said recent flooding has "led to major changes in the way we develop policies, plan for development, and build for the future." They said looking at detention and drainage was central to that effort, as were partnerships and studies.

They noted that change has already been made to regulations and that work is ongoing to update its flooding models and data. Specifically, they said watershed-specific studies were already underway and green-infrastructure incentives were being explored.

"We encourage organizations like the Greater Houston Flood Consortium to continue to work together with the city to help identify potential solutions to build resilience and continue to reduce flood risk in the region," the statement said.

Researchers found that local detention rules – meant to keep new development from worsening flooding – fell short for several reasons: incorrectly estimating runoff from the site before it was developed, ignoring soil type and vegetation and failing to account for the volume of water that flows across an area in addition to its flow rate.

Overestimating runoff from an undeveloped site means detention won't be sufficient, the researchers wrote. Failing to consider soil and vegetation turns a blind eye to their effect on how much and how fast water soaks into the ground.

And without looking at volume, one loses sight of how water builds up over time, filling the reservoirs so critical to the area's defense.

"While there is not enough information to quantify the degree to which current regulations may fall short of mitigating flooding, there is sufficient data to indicate that, in some cases, they do allow new development to increase downstream flooding," the researchers wrote.

Development in Houston historically started close to Galveston and is moving inland, or upstream, according to the report, titled "Detention & Drainage Regulations." That makes fixing these issues all the more important.

To do that, the report's authors suggest increasing minimum detention requirements, while allowing developers to bypass these rules if they study what exactly is needed.

The second study, titled "Development Regulations," calls for continued creative thinking on how flooding is approached generally.

"We don't have the luxury of only being reactive," said Kyle Shelton, director of strategic partnerships for Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, a collaborator on the paper.

Building standards vary by jurisdiction, the researchers noted, and enforcement abilities also are not consistent. The report recommends a regional approach to tackle big-picture problems such as homes already built in the flood plain, some of them owned by people who lack the means to fix them.

Other ideas raised: Could green infrastructure – native landscapes, rain barrels, land protection – be better incentivized? Could vulnerable areas near waterways be left undeveloped?

The researchers also urged new thinking for flood plain maps, perhaps including probability data on flooding and additional risks such as wildfires or earthquakes. Just as important, they noted, was being sure people had access to this information.

"Wedding more accurate risk mapping with regulations and standards that acknowledge a wider array of challenges and inform residents about those risks can help reduce the number of residents in harm's way and lessen the impact of storm events," they wrote.

Balancing economic concerns with regulatory ones was an ongoing struggle, the report noted. But at the heart of it, Shelton explained, was another important goal: "We need to work as hard as we can as a region to not put new people in harm's way."

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DEMOCRATS

From page A1

ground in the country for Democratic pickups in 2020. For example, since 2010 the Democrats have charted an increase of 38,000 residents who are Latino, African-American or Asian-American in the 21st Congressional District, which stretches from the northern reaches of San Antonio to Austin and includes Hill Country to the north. It's a district that has been held by the GOP for more than 30 years.

"First and foremost, it's not lost on a lot of people that demographics are changing in Texas, especially the suburban areas around key cities, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas," said Allison Jaslow, executive director of the DCCC, the House Democrats' political arm.

"When people step back, they're surprised that they didn't pick off more Republicans down there," she said.

Anna Moneymaker / Bloomberg

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, center, is leading an early initiative to flip GOP seats while working to protect 44 vulnerable members, including Lizzie Fletcher and Colin Allred, right, of Dallas.

History on their side

Republicans express no immediate concern. They offered a barbed response likely to be used frequently to depict Democratic presidential hopefuls and a group of House freshmen as embracing policies outside the political mainstream.

"If the socialist Democrats were serious about competing in Texas, they wouldn't have spent the past three months pushing far-left policies like the oil- and gas-killing Green New Deal and banning private health insurance. Texans will reject the socialist Democrats and their zany ideas in 2020," said Bob Salera, spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Democrats, who took control of the House in November's midterm election, have history on their side as far as keeping their new majority: House control hasn't changed in consecutive elections since 1954.

Aside from fending off the socialism refrain, Democrats' biggest task likely will be protecting their two dozen first-term members who won in November by 5 percent or less. The DCCC in February announced its so-called Frontline Program, with 44 potentially vulnerable members, among them Lizzie Fletcher in Houston and Colin Allred of Dallas. Both ousted Republicans last year.

Republicans contend that Democrats will need to devote so much attention and money to protecting new members that they'll have little left to spend on unseating Republicans strong enough to withstand last year's blue wave.

Nonetheless, Pelosi – portrayed as a villain in tens of thousands of GOP ads last cycle – asserted boldly in a recent Washington Post interview that Democrats will secure their new House majority long before people vote in 2020. Part of her strategy in Texas and elsewhere is attempting to goad Republicans into retirement, noting their lack of opportunity serving in the minority.

Pelosi remarked that some Republican veterans may want to teach at a university.

The GOP's Salera responded: "If she thinks she's going to scare Texas Republicans, then she doesn't know the delegation."

Focus on six Texas races

Bluster or not, Democrats are moving swiftly. Weeks after taking control of the House for the first time in eight years, the DCCC presented a 2020 battleground plan that featured six Texas Republicans, more than any other state.

A San Antonio-area district, represented by Republican Will Hurd, was no surprise. The district's nearly 50-50 partisan split has kept it a biennial battleground this millennium. Gina Ortiz Jones, who came within 926 votes of unseating Hurd last year, is expected to declare plans shortly for another candidacy.

Democrats' takedown list also has GOP Rep. Chip Roy of Dripping Springs, Houston-area Reps. Michael McCaul and Pete Olson, John Carter of Round Rock and Kenny Marchant of Coppell.

Of the six, the nonpartisan Cook Political Report's David Wasserman last month ranked Hurd's and Marchant's seats as toss-ups and the others "lean Republican."

Democrats acknowledged that they are pressing Mary Jennings "MJ" Hegar, a former Afghanistan War rescue pilot, to run again against Carter, 77, after coming within 3 percentage points last year of unseating the nine-term veteran.

But Hegar has said she's seriously considering running for the Democratic nomination to challenge GOP Sen. John Cornyn.

Last week, Democrats in Washington released polling and voter data that they say buttresses their belief that Roy, McCaul and Marchant are vulnerable. The DCCC contended that internal polling of likely voters showed that the three are known by fewer than half the people in the district.

Democrats also are banking on the changing nature of those districts, particularly increases in the Latino populations. Citing census data, the DCCC said the population of Latinos, African-Americans and Asian-Americans has grown markedly in those districts since 2010 – in McCaul's district by 51,500, in Marchant's district by nearly 40,000 and in Roy's district by 38,000.

GOP appeal to donors

Roy is seeking to parlay the Democratic offensive into campaign cash, inviting supporters to help finance what he is calling a Save Texas Response Plan.

"House Democrats have now opened a new office in our backyard, and because several of us are standing up for conservative principles in Congress, we have a large target on our back," he said in a fundraising appeal Monday.

"They're not going away, and they won't stop attacking until they think they've done everything possible to turn Texas blue," Roy wrote.

Democrats say the Austin headquarters, which they intend to open in early May, will include eight "senior staffers" from around the country. Democrats declared earlier that they will station organizers in suburban Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas, hoping to take advantage of the erosion of GOP support for President Donald Trump reflected in a host of polls.

That may be a wise move, considering Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's frank appraisal last week of what befell his fellow Republicans in 2018.

"We all know why it happened," said McConnell, speaking with reporters. "We got crushed in the suburbs. We lost college graduates and women in the suburbs, which led in the House to losses in suburban Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Charleston, South Carolina, Philadelphia."

Loren Elliott / New York Times

Kayla Smith surveys the wreckage after a tornado swept through the Texas town of Franklin on Saturday. Officials said at least 55 homes were destroyed.

Storms hit hard in Midwest, East

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strong storms, including at least one tornado, swept through parts of the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic region, damaging homes and businesses and causing injuries after storms in the South killed at least eight people.

Storms that hit Ohio on Sunday and moved into New Jersey overnight into Monday brought heavy rains, lightning, strong winds and, in Ohio, at least one tornado. The storms followed worse conditions that had swept across the South, unleashing more than a dozen confirmed tornadoes and flooding, killing at least eight people, injuring dozens and flattening much of a Texas town.

In Virginia, about an hour south of Washington, authorities said a tree fell on a house and killed a woman early Monday morning. The Stafford County Sheriff's Office said the unidentified woman, 78, had been asleep when the tree fell at 1:43 a.m. An 82-year-old man who was in the home was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life threatening.

Storms on Monday spawned a tornado watch and flooded roadways in some areas of New Jersey, causing a roof to collapse at an apartment complex in Camden, though no injuries were reported. The weather disrupted rail service in the mid-Atlantic region, caused delays at airports and left tens of thousands of utility customers without power.

More than 20,000 customers lost power in New Jersey when the storms hit, though crews were able to quickly restore service to most.

The weather service said Monday that a survey team found evidence of an EF3 twister with winds of at least 136 mph near Weches, Texas, and that two other smaller tornadoes touched down in the same region on Saturday. Another EF3 twister flattened part of Franklin, Texas.

The system moved eastward into Mississippi, where weather service teams have confirmed eight tornadoes. And at least three weak tornadoes struck Alabama on Sunday.

Four people were killed in Texas. The other victims died in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Chinese woman in Mar-a-Lago case ordered by a judge to be locked up

MIAMI HERALD

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – A federal judge Monday ordered the detention of Yujing Zhang, the Chinese woman arrested trying to enter President Donald Trump's private Mar-a-Lago club.

"It does appear to the court that Ms. Zhang was up to something nefarious," Magistrate Judge William Matthewman said at the federal courthouse in West Palm Beach, adding that he considered Zhang, 33, a flight risk and believed she would return to China if released before trial.

Matthewman said the weight of the evidence against Zhang – who pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of making false statements to federal officers and entering restricted property – is "quite strong." Prosecutors had asked to keep her locked up.

Although no allegations of espionage have been made against Zhang, federal prosecutor Rolando Garcia said more charges are still possible. The FBI is treating her case as a national security matter, sources have told the Miami Herald. Her arrest raised questions about security at Mar-a-Lago – and whether foreign adversaries could seek to penetrate the president's Palm Beach club.

Zhang

Zhang was stopped at Mar-a-Lago on March 30. She said she was there to attend an event and was carrying what the U.S. Secret Service described as a thumb drive containing "malicious malware," as well as several other electronic devices.

But during Monday's hearing, prosecutors acknowledged the malware could have been a "false positive." Garcia said the new findings were based on an FBI analysis of the thumb drive that did not produce the same results as an earlier Secret Service analysis.

During the earlier test, the thumb drive was inserted into a computer and automatically started downloading files, something a Secret Service agent described as unusual in court testimony last week. The thumb drive did not start downloading files during the subsequent FBI analysis, Garcia said. Tests are ongoing.

Matthewman asked Garcia Monday how close Zhang got to a Mar-a-Lago computer.

"Within arm's length" of a computer in the club's reception area, Garcia replied.

Garcia also disclosed that messages from Zhang's iPhone showed she learned from an event promoter on March 26 that the Mar-a-Lago gala had been canceled, two days before she flew from China to the United States.

Matthewman said his order to detain Zhang was based on the fact that she showed up for the event knowing that it was canceled, as well as the number of electronic devices in her possession.

Zhang's federal public defenders argued during the hearing that her arrest was a misunderstanding based on language.

A federal grand jury found probable cause Friday that she lied to the Secret Service about why she came to Mar-a-Lago. She is being held at the Palm Beach County jail.

If convicted on both counts, she could face up to six years in prison and as much as $350,000 in fines.

Dutch fertility doctor may have used own sperm to father over 49 children

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE HAGUE, Netherlands – Martijn van Halen has every right to be angry at Jan Karbaat. The Dutch fertility doctor lied to his parents and used his own sperm to inseminate Van Halen's mother.

But, somehow, the 39-year-old Dutch landscape gardener doesn't seem to harbor too much resentment.

"Of course, what this doctor did isn't great. For my parents and the parents of my siblings, it's of course terrible," Van Halen told the Associated Press on Monday. "They were lied to and it's the doctor who treated them – that's wrong. But for me, I wouldn't have been here without the donor."

The case of Karbaat, who died in 2017 at age 89, has riveted the Netherlands, due to its mix of unethical medical behavior, privacy issues, DNA testing, legal wrangling and the rights of children to know who their parents are.

Last week, DNA results confirmed that Karbaat had fathered at least 49 children. The real number could be higher and spread beyond the Netherlands, even as far as the United States.

Ties van der Meer of the Dutch Donor Child Foundation, which supports such children, said Karbaat could have fathered many more. He said Monday that three more people contacted him over the weekend because they suspect they may also have been conceived using Karbatt's sperm.

Before learning about Karbaat, Van Halen already knew he had a large extended family, having checked an American DNA database for matches two years ago after learning from the man who raised him – who he thought was his father – that he was a donor child.

"Within a few weeks, I found out ... I had 25 siblings, half-siblings," he said.

A few months later, a Dutch agency made a DNA profile of one of Karbaat's sons. In February, Rotterdam District Court overruled the privacy objections of Karbaat's widow and ordered the profile to be made available to parents and children who suspected that they may be linked to Karbaat.

Karbaat's fertility clinic in the town of Barendrecht, a suburb of Rotterdam, was ordered closed in 2009 by a Dutch government health care agency due to poor administration and record keeping.

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FIRE

From page A1

Around 500 firefighters battled the blaze for nearly five hours. By 11 p.m. Paris time, the structure had been "saved and preserved as a whole," the fire chief, Jean-Claude Gallet, said. The two magnificent towers soaring above the skyline had been spared, he said, but two-thirds of the roof was destroyed.

"The worst has been avoided even though the battle is not completely won," President Emmanuel Macron said in a brief and solemn speech at Notre Dame on Monday night, vowing that the cathedral would be rebuilt.

"This is the place where we have lived all of our great moments, the epicenter of our lives," he said. "It is the cathedral of all the French."

The fire broke out about 6:30 p.m., upending Macron's plans to deliver an important policy speech about trying to heal the country from months of demonstrations by the yellow vest protest movement that had already defaced major landmarks in the capital and disfigured some of its richest streets.

The tragedy seemed to underscore the challenges heaped before his administration, which has struggled to reconcile the formidable weight of France's ideals and storied past with the necessity for change to meet the demands of the 21st century.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, officials said. No one was killed, they said, but a firefighter was seriously injured.

A jewel of medieval Gothic architecture built in the 12th and 13th centuries, Notre Dame is a landmark not only for Paris, where it squats firmly yet gracefully at its very center, but for all the world. The cathedral is visited by about 30,000 people a day and around 13 million people a year.

For centuries France's kings and queens were married and buried there. Napoleon was crowned emperor in Notre Dame in 1804, and the joyous thanksgiving ceremony after the Liberation of Paris in 1944 took place there, led by Charles de Gaulle.

World leaders congregated at the cathedral in a memorial service for de Gaulle in 1970, and then again for President François Mitterrand in 1996.

On Monday evening, as the last rush of tourists were trying to get in for the day, the doors of Notre Dame were abruptly shut without explanation, witnesses said.

Within moments, tiny bits of white smoke started rising from the spire – which, at 295 feet, was the highest part of the cathedral.

Billowing out, the smoke started turning gray, then black, making it clear that a fire was growing inside the cathedral, which is currently covered in scaffolding. Soon, orange flames began punching out of the spire, quickly increasing in intensity.

French police rushed in and started blowing whistles, telling everyone to move back, witnesses said. By then, the flames were towering, spilling out of multiple parts of the cathedral. Tourists and residents alike came to a standstill, pulling out their phones to call their loved ones. Older Parisians began to cry, lamenting how their national treasure was quickly being lost.

Thousands stood on the banks of the Seine river and watched in shock as the fire tore through the cathedral's wooden roof and brought down the spire. Video filmed by onlookers and shared on social media showed smoke and flames billowing from the top of the cathedral.

The cathedral's rector, Monsignor Patrick Chauvet, said firefighters were able to save some of the cathedral's artworks but did not say how much was damaged inside the building. A linen fabric associated with Saint Louis, the Holy Crown of thorns and the cathedral's treasury were saved.

Gallet, the fire chief, said firefighters were still rescuing artworks in the building, hours after the fire had started. The main risk, he said, was the smoke within the cathedral, and the fall of materials, including melting lead.

The cathedral had been undergoing extensive renovation work. Last week, 16 copper statues representing the Twelve Apostles and four evangelists were lifted with a crane so that the spire could be renovated.

In recent years, the Friends of Notre Dame, a foundation based in the United States, estimated that the structure needed nearly $40 million for urgent repairs. The French state, which owns the cathedral, already devotes up to 2 million euros (about $2.4 million) a year in upkeep.

In a statement, San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller said he was praying for "consolation from God for the people of Paris and all of France as they cope with shock and profound sadness," adding, "We in the Archdiocese of San Antonio pray especially at this time for the safety of firefighters and first responders battling this enormous fire."

Fabien Barrau / AFP/Getty Images

Fire breaks out Monday evening at Notre Dame, the Gothic cathedral in the center of Paris. For five hours, about 500 firefighters battled the blaze that destroyed two-thirds of the wooden roof. President Emmanuel Macron has vowed to rebuild the landmark.

Geoffroy Van Der Hasselt / AFP/Getty Images

Onlookers lament the damage to Notre Dame, treasured not only in France but around the world.

About the Cathedral of Notre Dame

The Cathedral of Notre Dame, whose name means Our Lady, draws about 13 million visitors a year.

The cathedral was built on a small island called the Île de la Cité, in the middle of the Seine. Construction began in 1163, during the reign of King Louis VII, and was completed in 1345.

Henry VI of England was made king of France inside Notre Dame in 1431.

Napoleon Bonaparte, who also sought to save the storied cathedral, was crowned emperor there in 1804.

In 1909, Joan of Arc, who had helped France battle the English and was burned at the stake centuries earlier, was beatified in the cathedral by Pope Pius X.

The cathedral is currently undergoing a nearly $180 million renovation.

New York Times

VICTIMS

From page A1

were two of four women whose bodies were found between 1983 and 1991 in a boggy, 25-acre stretch of land off Calder Road along Interstate 45, dubbed the "Texas Killing Fields." No one has been convicted in connection with the deaths.

Back stories

Cook, born in Memphis, Tenn., moved to Texas with a friend in the late 1970s and lived in the Houston and Channelview areas from 1976-1985, police said. Cook kept in regular contact with her parents in Tennessee through letters and phone calls, but fell out of touch with her family in December 1985.

Investigators said a family member came to Houston to look for Cook, but failed to find her, after one of her parents fell ill. She was never reported missing. Associates of Cook told investigators that she sold and used cocaine.

Cook worked several jobs in the Houston area during that time, including as a mechanic for National Rent-A-Car in Houston and later for a golf cart company in 1979. Cook also worked for Harris Equipment Co. in 1980 and for Balloon Affair in 1981.

Cook's body was one of two found by two young men riding bikes in a field off Calder Road in League City in February 1986. Cook's body was never identified. The other victim, 16-year old Laura Miller, had been reported missing after using a pay phone at a nearby convenience store.

Laura's father, Tim Miller, is the founder of Texas EquuSearch, a search and rescue organization dedicated to searching for missing persons. Miller could not be reached for comment Monday.

Prudhomme was born in Port Arthur and lived in the Beaumont area from 1982 to 1985. Police said she moved to Austin in 1986, in part to escape an abusive relationship, and then to Seabrook in 1988, where she lived in several different apartment developments. Her last known address was in Nassau Bay in 1991.

Investigators had no information about Prudhomme's employment history. It is believed that she was a frequent patron of several bars around NASA Road 1 in Seabrook.

Prudhomme's body was found in the field off Calder Road in September 1991 by two people on horseback. She appeared to have been killed with a blunt instrument.

Buffington said Prudhomme had two sons, one of whom is still alive. The children were raised by their grandparents after Prudhomme left the Beaumont area. Prudhomme's son told investigators that he had long believed that his mother had moved on to live her life somewhere else.

Buffington described reaching out to Cook's and Prudhomme's families as an "emotional roller coaster," with relatives elated to have closure but also grieving the loss of a loved one.

"It was no different than telling a loved one they were murdered yesterday," Buffington said.

DNA breakthrough

Giving Jane and Janet Doe names and faces was a result of sophisticated forensic DNA analysis combined with a thorough search through the two women's ancestry with the help of an online family tree database.

Investigators announced in December that advances in DNA technology had provided the potential for unearthing new leads and identifying a suspect.

Working with Parabon NanoLabs, a DNA technology company in Virginia, investigators sought to piece together the appearance and ancestry of the two women using a new method of analysis called DNA "phenotyping."

League City police partnered with Parabon to develop composite sketches of the two women based on their skeletal DNA beginning in 2016. In April 2018, when the "Golden State Killer" was captured in California with the help of family tree databases, League City investigators decided to employ similar methods to try to identify Jane and Janet Doe.

FBI Agent Richard Rennison offered his assistance through the use of Family Tree DNA, a Houston-based company, to compare the DNA profiles of Jane and Janet Doe with the rest of its open-source database. Buffington called the family trees efforts "exhausting."

"You're talking about hundreds, if not thousands of people on some of these DNA matches," he said.

Investigators came up with a genetic profile for the victims.

Jane Doe had family that originated in Tennessee; Janet Doe's family originated in southern Louisiana. That information was released in December, leading people who believed they were distant cousins of Jane and Janet Doe to call investigators. DNA samples obtained from the relatives confirmed Cook's and Prudhomme's identities.

No suspect

Despite the breakthrough in identifying the two women, investigators are no closer to a lead on who might be responsible for their deaths.

League City Police have said there are "persons of interest" that investigators have not been able to eliminate. In the years since the first bodies turned up, police investigators and prosecutors have claimed that one or two serial killers are likely responsible for all four deaths, and that additional murders may be tied to these suspects.

One suspect, however, has been eliminated.

Mark Roland Stallings, serving two life sentences for a series of unrelated crimes, told author Kathryn Casey that he killed Janet Doe, now Donna Prudhomme, in 1991. Stallings said Prudhomme was a teenage prostitute he strangled and dumped in the clearing off Calder Road. Stallings remains a prime suspect in two unrelated slayings in Fort Bend County.

Without elaborating, Buffington said he could strike Stallings off the list of suspects in Prudhomme's death.

"Many people have interviewed (Stallings) over the years, many books and articles have been written about him, and I can tell you that he fabricated all of that," Buffington said. "I have ruled him out as a possible suspect on Donna Prudhomme."

Casey, who published the 2015 book "Deliver Us: Three Decades of Murder and Redemption in the Infamous I-45/Texas Killing Fields," theorized that Stallings may have lied about killing Prudhomme to get publicity.

"I'm glad that they were able to knock him off the list; that narrows the list," Casey said. "All I care about is finding the right person."

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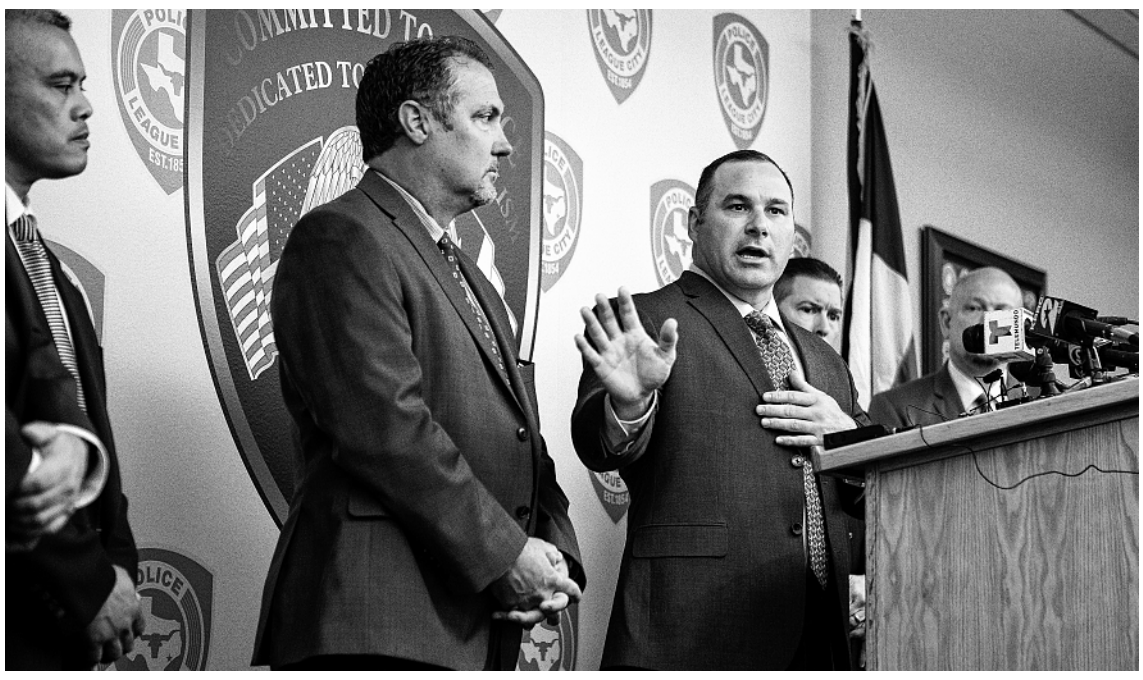

Mark Mulligan / Staff photographer

League City Police Department Lt. Michael Buffington says authorities don't have any evidence linking the two "Texas Killing Fields" victims whose bodies were found five years apart.

SB9 is a bad idea

Poised to pass the state Senate, the measure makes it tougher to exercise voting rights.

Some folks in the Republican Party have given up. They are out of ideas, void of policy and lacking the enthusiasm needed to attract new voters. If demography is destiny, they seem to be content eking out marginal victories for a few more years by clinging to a dwindling base. How else do you explain their push to win elections through exclusion? Why else do they pin their hopes of power on disenfranchisement?

Their latest attempt, one of Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's priorities for this year's Legislature, is Senate Bill 9. While it contains a welcome measure to guarantee that all electronic voting machines can produce a paper record, it also includes provisions that put up obstacles targeting vulnerable populations.

SB9, poised to pass the Senate, makes it more difficult for people who need assistance at the polls, such as seniors and the disabled. It gives partisan poll watchers the right to be in the voting booth when a volunteer is helping someone, a clear encroachment on the secret ballot. It also imposes new hoops to jump through for election volunteers, including those who drive voters to the polls.

The most troubling provisions, though, are those that threaten jail time for certain election-related infractions – even in instances involving an honest mistake when registering.

The bill increases the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony on certain election-related offenses, and removes the requirement for a court to consider intent. It also allows law enforcement to violate election law during an investigation or a prosecution, clearing the way for undercover sting operations that could have a chilling effect on legitimate voter registration efforts and potentially entrap the unwitting.

Though we may want to believe that no one would be prosecuted for unintentionally violating election laws, recent cases show that overzealous Texas officials should not be trusted.

Rosa Ortega, an legal immigrant with a sixth-grade education, was sentenced to eight years in prison for voting illegally in Tarrant County. This was a disproportionately harsh penalty for someone who mistakenly believed she could vote and who, as the facts of the case revealed, could have been informed of her ineligibility by the officials who accepted her registration. In another case, also in Tarrant County, Crystal Mason, a black woman, was sentenced to five years in prison for filling out a provisional ballot without knowing she was ineligible due to a felony conviction.

Officials have also shown a cavalier attitude when leveling unsubstantiated accusations. A clear example was the list of 95,000 registered voters that was handed over to the attorney general under claims these were immigrants ineligible to vote. The list quickly fell apart under scrutiny, and the investigation was put on hold, but only after it had been trumpeted by Republicans – including President Trump – as evidence of the GOP's massive voter-fraud bogeyman.

Bills such as SB9 are voter suppression efforts, pure and simple. A way to intimidate the growing number of potential voters, including minorities and young people, that overall tend to support Democrats. That these attempts come under the guise of protecting the electoral process is particularly galling, since in-person, deliberate voter fraud is virtually nonexistent. When the restrictive 2011 Texas Voter ID law was taken to court, the judge noted that in the decade before the law was passed, there had been two convictions out of 20 million votes cast in the state.

Texas already ranks among the states with the lowest voter turnout, so participation by qualified voters should be made easier, not harder. Practical solutions include doing away with early registration deadlines and allowing online registration and address updates and automatic voter registration when obtaining a state ID. Those are the types of measures, widely endorsed by nonpartisan voter-rights organizations, that should take up lawmakers' time.

Citizens have a fundamental right to vote, and the government must have a compelling reason if it wants to interfere with that right. SB 9 falls far short. Voter suppression efforts such as this one deserve our scorn, not the Legislature's support.

Eric Gay / Associated Press file

A voter prepares to cast his 2014 ballot at an early voting polling site in Austin. Senate Bill 9 would put up voting obstacles for some vulnerable populations.

LETTERS

Extras for home-schoolers

School choices

Regarding "Homeschooled need extracurriculars" (Outlook, Saturday): The author, Ashley Lawson, does not feel it's fair that her child is not allowed to play on public school sports teams because she is homeschooled. It's a choice to home-school. There are some positives (I suppose) and certainly some negatives.

Her statement that she pays property taxes just won't float. How about all of the kids who go to private schools? Should they get to compete on public school teams, which they are not enrolled in, too?

Put the child on a club team and keep home-schooling her, or she can always attend a public or private school.

Randy Neumeyer, Spring

Don't mess with Sid

Regarding "Ag chief fumes over bid to limit powers" (Front page, Monday): I wonder if the lawmakers who voted to do away with Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller's consumer protection efforts ever considered that the reason there have been very few valid fuel complaints is *because* of enforcement and inspections.

Emily Murphy, Kingwood

Meet classroom standards

I agree with Ashley Lawson regarding the need for children schooled outside a group setting to join in extracurricular programs.

Though I acknowledge there are some here who feel their tax dollars are wasted on an educational process from which they have parted, it's important to note that all property owners in this state pay for public education. And while the author as a parent feels home schooling is a better method for her child, as an educator she obviously agrees that financial support for public education benefits all society and the better that process works, the greater the benefit to each of us.

Currently, home-schooling families in Texas are not required to register with their local district, nor do they provide any assessments on their children's education. If UIL activities are to be opened to home-schooled children, how is the state to know the numbers of potential participants or their qualifications for UIL activities? Should the Texas Legislature choose to include non-enrolled children in the UIL activities of our public schools, the basic precursor must be their adherence to the minimum standards of all classrooms – registration, submission of curriculum and specific revelation of standards met or exceeded.

Carol Godell, Spring

No voting for prisoners

Regarding "No good reason that prisoners can't vote" (Outlook, Saturday): This op-ed fails to mention that, in many states, judges are elected by popular vote. It seems absurd to let felons select the very judges who they will likely be sentenced by in the future.

The article also makes the specious argument that, "If anything, the political system needs the perspectives of prisoners, with their intimate experience of this otherwise opaque part of the state."

Based on that logic, we should also allow suspended high school students to vote on the school's suspension policies. After all, suspended students have an intimate experience of this otherwise opaque part of education.

Michael Conklin, San Angelo

Idea worth consideration

Regarding "To fix outrageous property taxes, Texas needs California's Prop 13" (Business, Sunday): Business columnist Chris Tomlinson has some good ideas about funding education in Texas, but I believe that the answer is much more simple. Put the legalization for recreational use of marijuana on the ballot to include a hefty tax and with the stipulation that tax proceeds be used exclusively for education; let the people decide, and watch the money roll in. No more property tax worries, no regressive tax on the poor, and for those who don't use it, no additional expense.

Of course getting those ultra-right-wingers to put it on the ballot to begin with might be a problem, but not many people could argue with the result.

Kenneth Campbell, Cypress

BIBLE VERSE

But thou, O Lord, shall endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

Psalm 102: 12

Tiger's triumph is a reminder of what binds us

Michael A. Lindenberger says the golfer's comeback, like Astros victories after Hurricane Harvey, calls to mind the unifying power of sports.

There it was Sunday afternoon, Donald Trump and Barack Obama agreeing on something at last.

Both the president and former president heaped praise on a 43-year-old black golfer who hadn't won a major title in 11 years. Suddenly, winning the Masters at Augusta, Tiger Woods vaulted atop the world of sports once more, a place he had held so securely until his life, his game, his marriage and his health all came spiraling down in 2009.

Woods' comeback is one of the all-time great stories in sports, an area chock-full of examples of daring, dazzle and drama. Isn't that why we love sports in the first place?

We've known the power of sport to transcend the game here in Houston. Didn't the Astros remind Houstonians that the city was in it together after Hurricane Harvey? Didn't they remind us that by focusing on what binds us, rather than what divides us, we might recover even from that terrible storm?

Woods' story Sunday was a tale worth remembering. The last time I felt that way about a moment in golf was in April 1986, when a 46-year-old Jack Nicklaus walked off the green with his son, who was caddying, on the way to put on his sixth green jacket. I remember clearly the gasps and shouts in my living room as my parents reacted with joy. Nicklaus had been a feature of our weekends for longer than I'd been alive, and we all knew something remarkable had happened.

I felt like that Sunday, and given Woods' fall from grace and the years it took him to recover, it felt even more powerful to see him play. My four siblings and I were lighting up texts after Woods took the lead on 15. The whole country seemed in the midst of a collective gasp. Could he do it? Really?

And then, he did.

There's no doubt that individual sports are different from team sports. Players lack the ability to represent a city, or to showcase teamwork, the way a team like the Astros can.

But spectacular athletes such as Woods, Michael Phelps, Serena Williams or (to plug my hometown hero) Muhammad Ali offer us something else. They offer a demonstration of the inexhaustible human capacity to strive, to seek and not to yield, as Tennyson wrote so long ago. But in drawing us close around the screen to watch their stories unfold, they remind us of how much we as a people have in common.

As Woods walked off the green and hugged his son, Charlie, tight, my sister wrote from Kentucky: "OMG. I am so happy."

We all were, and not just in my family. Everywhere Sunday afternoon, families stopped what they were doing to see if Tiger was really going to do it. Airport television sets were mobbed.

Nicklaus weighed in with a huge congrats; Phelps cheered him on from the fairway; Stephen Curry, Tom Brady and seemingly everyone in the world of sports applauded.

So it was fitting that this moment brought Trump and Obama together, too, however briefly. Might we take it as a reminder that we have much in common? Recognizing that in areas beyond sports would carry us a long way toward making our nation, a saner, safer and more optimistic place.

That might sound naive, given how polarized our politics have become. But then, as Woods just showed us, everyone loves a comeback story.

Lindenberger (@lindenberger) is deputy opinion editor at the Houston Chronicle and a member of the editorial board.

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Windows 10

Tax cuts difficult for Trump to rely on

By Sahil Kapur and Laura Davison
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Republicans passed a sweeping tax cut for two-thirds of Americans in 2017, saying it would pay for itself and that the American public would thank them.

Now, as Americans finish filing to the IRS for the first time under the new system, the law has swelled the deficit and surveys show just one-fifth of taxpayers believe that their taxes have gone down. That's made it hard for President Donald Trump to leverage the tax cuts as an issue in 2020, when he's up for re-election and his party will be seeking to retake the House of Representatives.

"The Democrats really outmaneuvered the Republicans by convincing the American people that the main thrust of the tax reform package was to cut taxes for the wealthy," said Dan Eberhart, a major Republican donor who runs drilling services company Canary. Republicans "failed to fully explain the success to voters."

Trump is trying to turn public opinion over the cuts to his advantage to promote what Republicans consider their signature legislative achievement.

"We're getting historic tax re-

Taxes continues on B7

Tax cut promises

After a year under the law, a rundown on what we know so far. **B7**

STATE YOUR CASE

Return of retainer should be routine

Q: We hired an attorney and paid a retainer of $6,000 for legal services. The attorney made little progress on the case, so we fired him. The balance on the retainer is now $5,136. Because this lawyer will not do further work on the case, I want to get back my unused retainer. How should I proceed in this matter?

RONALD LIPMAN

A: You should start by emailing your lawyer to ask for a return of the unused retainer. It is a fairly routine matter for an attorney to return unearned client funds. There is a very good chance that no other action on your part will be needed.

A retainer from a client is supposed to be held in the law firm's trust account, called an IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Account). Interest on money held in these accounts is used to pay for legal services for persons who are unable to afford an attorney. Your $5,136 should be sitting in such an account, and it should be a simple exercise for

Lipman continues on B7

Waste Management will acquire competitor in $4.9 billion deal

Houston disposal and recycling firm to buy Florida company to 'grow our asset footprint'

By Andrea Leinfelder
STAFF WRITER

The Houston disposal and recycling company Waste Management said Monday that it will buy a competitor, Advanced Disposal Services, in a $4.9 billion deal.

Advanced Disposal, headquartered in Ponte Vedra, Fla., is the country's fourth-largest solid waste company. It serves more than 3 million residential, commercial and industrial customers, including 800 municipalities primarily in 16 states in the eastern part of the U.S.

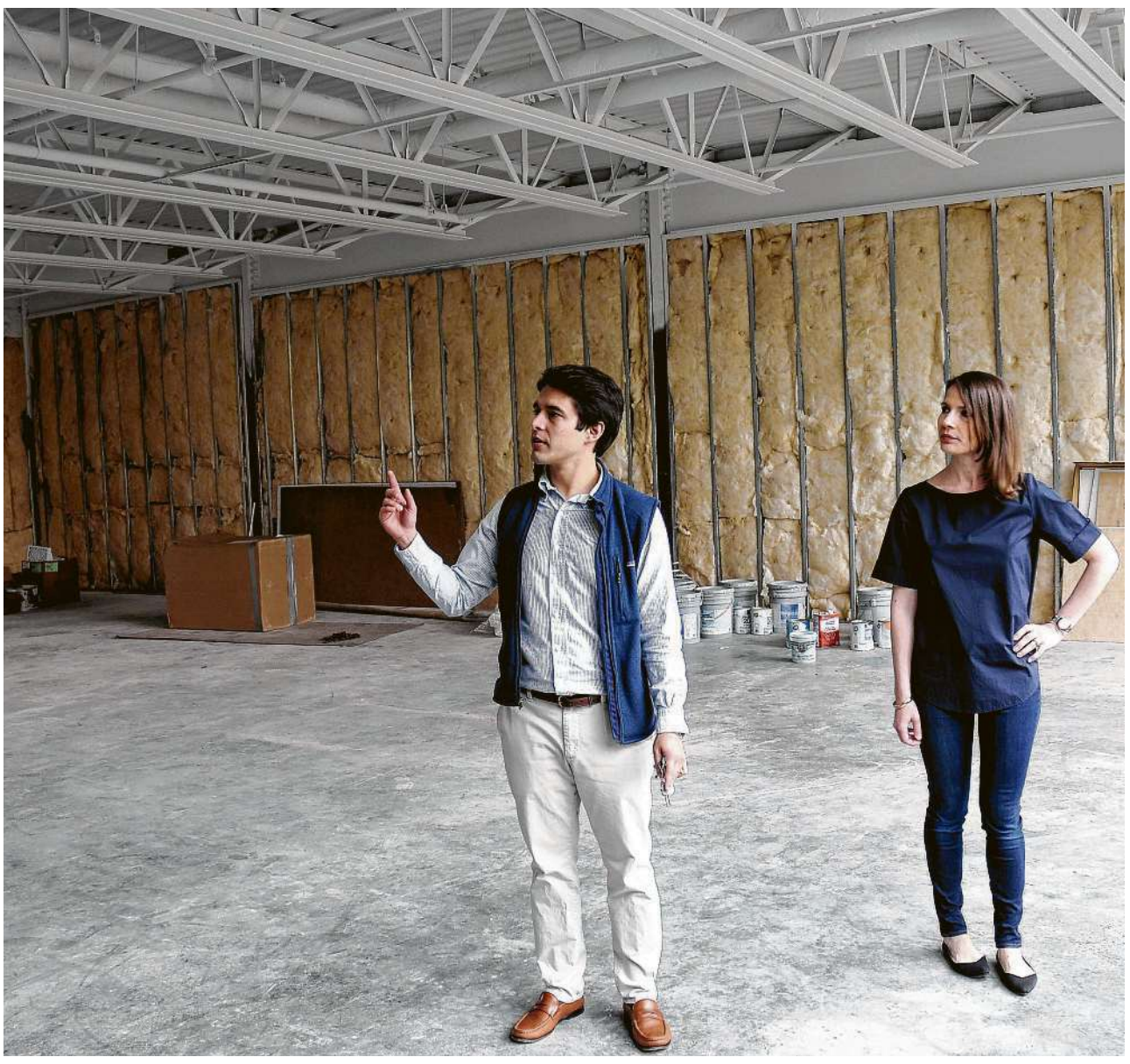
Waste Management Chief Executive Jim Fish said the deal would bring complementary assets and operations.

"With this acquisition, we will grow our asset footprint to serve more customers and communities and generate significant growth and value creation opportunities

Deal continues on B5

Waste Management, based in Houston, will acquire competitor Advanced Disposal, which serves more than 3 million residential, commercial and industrial customers.
David J. Phillip / Associated Press

RETAIL



Dave Rossman / Contributor
Steve and Hilary Zaic Ybarra, principals of the Platform Investment Group, hope to develop urban sites with an emphasis on design and walkability, including at their newest project at Shepherd and Bissonnet.

Mixed-use brings new life to Boulevard Oaks

By Nancy Sarnoff
STAFF WRITER

Husband-and-wife developers turn to top designers in state to convert the site of a former convenience store

Almost immediately after a "for sale" sign went up at the northeast corner of Shepherd and Bissonnet, husband-and-wife developers Steve and Hilary Zaic Ybarra made an offer on the property. Within a few months, they had closed on the site, still unsure what they would do with it.

The Ybarras, who live in this area just north of Rice University, decided a restaurant with an outdoor patio would be an amenity residents would embrace.

"The goal was to have something to have something in the neighborhood they could walk to," Hilary Zaic Ybarra said.

Their new project at 2132 Bissonnet is nearing completion, and its first tenant – a café and bar called Tropicales – will open May 5. They declined to disclose the cost of the development.

The Ybarras' project is one of the latest new developments along the stretch of Bissonnet from Kirby to the Museum District, long a hodgepodge of townhomes and small retailers operating out of strip centers or in converted houses.

Much of that development activity has taken place west of Kirby, a major commercial thoroughfare, where there are larger tracts to be redeveloped.

Last month, a developer demolished a commercial property from the 1960s just west of Kirby to make

Retail continues on B7

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BRIEFS

DFW airport planning for 6th terminal

Talks are expected to begin this spring on adding a sixth passenger terminal at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the main hub for American Airlines, aviation officials said.

Airport authorities said there's a good chance Terminal F could be built with design standards that allow more airplanes to park in a smaller space.

Terminal F will probably not be the same shape as other terminals at DFW. Some 60 percent of DFW passengers are connecting for another flight, and the half-moon terminal design is not the best shape for connecting customers, said Sean Donohue, DFW Airport chief executive officer.

While the discussions around the construction of Terminal F are still introductory, it's likely the new terminal could be created without a parking garage, officials said. About a quarter of car traffic at the airport comes from ride-share services such as Lyft and Uber.

Donohue said it's likely the new Terminal F would be the key part of an airport capital improvement project that could cost as much as $4 billion through 2025.

Some temporary enhancements to Terminal C, the airport's busiest terminal, would also likely be included in the project.

Donna Mcwilliam / Associated Press

Talks at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the main hub for American Airlines, are expected to begin on adding another terminal that likely will have a different shape than the others.

CALIFORNIA

Breach exposes users on Hotmail, Outlook

Users of Microsoft's Outlook, Hotmail and MSN email services had their accounts exposed for nearly three months after hackers gained unauthorized access via an Outlook customer support account.

Microsoft said the breach, which occurred between January and March, let hackers view individuals' personal information. The software giant didn't disclose how many email users had their accounts exposed, but said the hackers were unable to get access to the email information of the majority of the accounts that were compromised.

According to a statement from Microsoft, the company notified approximately 6 percent of "the original, already limited subset of consumers" that the "bad actors" gained unauthorized access to the content of their email accounts. The company said it then provided "additional guidance and support," and increased its detection and monitoring of the affected accounts.

NEW YORK

Lyft hits the brakes on 3K electric bikes

Lyft has pulled 3,000 electric bikes from the streets of New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., after customers complained the bikes were braking too hard.

A spokeswoman with the ride-hailing company said Monday they are aware of reports of injuries, but wouldn't specify the number of complaints. On Twitter, riders complained of being thrown over the handlebars.

Lyft removed the majority of its electric bikes, which can go up to 18 mph, from the three cities on Sunday. Lyft is working with an engineering firm to determine the cause.

UNITED KINGDOM

Plan would ban kids from Facebook 'likes'

Britain's privacy regulator wants to stop kids from being able to "like" posts on Facebook and other social media sites as part of tough new rules it's proposing to protect children's online privacy.

Under the draft rules, which were released for consultation on Monday, tech companies would not be allowed to use "nudge techniques" that encourage children to keep using a site.

Regulators worldwide are stepping up oversight of internet companies amid growing concern about online privacy.

GEORGIA

Less recline space for some Delta flights

Delta Air Lines is reducing the amount of recline on seats on its Airbus A320 planes, a test of what the airline calls an effort to protect personal space.

The question of whether or not to recline seats is a divisive issue for airline passengers, particularly as seat space becomes more cramped. Atlanta-based Delta is reducing the amount of recline from 4 inches to 2 inches in the main cabin and in Comfort-plus seats. In first class, the recline will reduce from 5.4 inches to 3.5 inches.

Delta uses its A320s to fly one- to two-hour routes such as Atlanta-LaGuardia with a good share of business travelers working on laptops on tray tables and passengers watching movies or TV on seat-back screens – activities that can be more difficult when the seat in front is reclined.

GEORGIA

SpaceX, NASA join to deflect asteroids

Atari fan Elon Musk has been awarded a U.S. government contract to essentially play a real-life version of the arcade shooter game "Asteroids" with his rocket company, SpaceX.

NASA awarded Space Exploration Technologies Corp. a $69 million contract last week to provide launch services for the agency's Double Asteroid Redirection Test mission. The program is seeking to be the first to demonstrate the ability to deflect an asteroid by colliding a spacecraft into one at high speed.

The test mission is targeted for a June 2021 launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, NASA said.

Musk, the chief executive officer of both SpaceX and Tesla Inc., deployed Atari games to the latter company's electric vehicles last year as part of an over-the-air software update, including Asteroids, Missile Command and Lunar Lander.

From wire reports

Leon Neal / Getty Images

A boat is placed at an intersection as climate change protesters with Extinction Rebellion block London's Oxford Circus. Protesters aim to keep demonstrations going for two weeks.

Demonstrators in London damage Shell headquarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON – Environmental protesters here blocked access to several major landmarks and vandalized the headquarters of oil company Shell on Monday as they tried to bring the city to a standstill.

The group Extinction Rebellion was seeking to paralyze parts of central London to highlight demands for the British government to declare a climate emergency.

Thousands of protesters converged on Marble Arch, Oxford Circus, Waterloo Bridge, Piccadilly Circus and Parliament Square. Some activists glued themselves to windows at Shell headquarters near Waterloo, and others smashed glass revolving doors and sprayed the building with graffiti.

Many carried signs pleading with the government to make fighting climate change a top priority.

Police said three men were arrested in the ongoing protests. They have not been identified or charged.

Extinction Rebellion drew attention to its cause two weeks ago when members stripped to their underwear in the public gallery in Parliament during a Brexit debate.

Protester Olivia Evershed, 23, said climate policies must be altered quickly to prevent catastrophic changes.

"If we don't do anything to change this, our children will die," she said.

Police advised Londoners to give themselves extra time for their journeys because of possible delays caused by the protests. Protesters aim to keep the demonstrations going for two weeks.

Justices keep it clean in arguments for 'FUCT' clothing line trademark

By Adam Liptak
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday in a curious case in which no one dared say the word at the heart of the dispute, which was the brand name of a line of clothing that had been denied federal trademark protection.

Malcolm Stewart, a lawyer for the federal government, had come prepared with an elaborate circumlocution, calling the word "the equivalent of the past participle form of the paradigmatic profane word in our culture."

Erik Brunetti, the owner of the clothing line, has sometimes said that its name, FUCT, stood for "Friends U Can't Trust." But the justices seemed convinced that the term amounted to a vulgarity.

"C'mon," Justice Samuel Alito told Brunetti's lawyer, John Sommer. "Be serious. We know what he's trying to say."

Alito added that the First Amendment's ordinary skepticism of laws that make distinctions based on speakers' viewpoints may not apply to the word.

"Like, 99 percent of the time or 95 percent of the time," he said, "it's not used to express what the word literally means. It's just used to say, 'I'm mad, I want to get attention.' It's like shouting."

An official at the Patent and Trademark Office denied Brunetti's application for federal protection for the term under a 1905 federal law that allows the office to refuse to register trademarks that are "immoral, deceptive or scandalous."

The justices seemed equally troubled by the law, which several said was both vague and inconsistently applied, and by the consequences of ruling in Brunetti's favor, which some said would encourage the use of swear words and the most charged racial epithets.

The case, Iancu v. Brunetti, No. 18-302, was further complicated by a 2017 decision from the court that unanimously struck down a neighboring clause in the same part of the trademark law. That clause denied federal trademark protection to terms that disparage people, living or dead, along with "institutions, beliefs or national symbols."

In the 2017 case, Matal v. Tam, the court ruled that an Asian-American dance-rock band called the Slants was entitled to federal trademark registration.

The justices seemed to find the provision at issue in Monday's case more challenging. Stewart said the government would enforce the challenged provision narrowly in light of the 2017 decision, focusing on terms that are shocking or offensive based on the mode of their expression rather than on the ideas they convey.

Germany charges VW's former CEO in emissions scandal

By Christopher F. Schuetze
NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN – German prosecutors Monday filed aggravated fraud charges against Martin Winterkorn, the former CEO of Volkswagen who led the company when it deceived regulators about its vehicles' diesel exhaust levels.

The charges are the first indictment in Germany against an individual in connection with the scandal, which has cost Volkswagen tens of billions of dollars since it first came to light in 2015.

In charging Winterkorn and four Volkswagen managers whose names were not released, the prosecutor's office in Braunschweig tied the five to events as far back as 2006, when the deception was initially conceived.

The timeline is significant because it rejects initial claims by Volkswagen that senior management became aware of the devices used to cheat emissions tests only after being confronted by U.S. environmental authorities in 2015.

The charges represent an important development in how the German courts are dealing with the fallout of a scandal that has shaken Germans' trust in their car industry. The Dieselaffäre, as it is known in the German media, has been widely debated in Germany.

The charges also show how the scandal continues to hang over Volkswagen, the world's No. 1 maker of vehicles last year. Even after paying $33 billion in fines and settlements related to the scandal, the carmaker continues to face legal challenges and investigations from authorities in the U.S. and Germany.

The indictment Monday includes charges of breach of trust, tax evasion and false certification, either directly or by aiding in such crimes. If convicted, Winterkorn could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

The prosecutor's office also said it would seek repayment of bonuses, the highest of which was nearly $12.5 million.

Winterkorn, prosecutors said, continued to conceal the emissions fraud even after he was told that outsiders were questioning the company's emissions data. The prosecutor's office also charged Winterkorn with approving a useless software update in 2014 at a cost of around $26 million despite knowing that it would not eliminate the defeat devices.

More than 9 million cars with faked emissions tests were licensed in Europe and the U.S., the indictment said.

Winterkorn stepped down as CEO in 2015, and he has previously denied wrongdoing. His lawyer, Felix Dörr, said Monday that the prosecutor's office had not given his team sufficient access to the files for it to comment on the charges.

Associated Press file photo

Ex-CEO Martin Winterkorn and four VW managers are facing charges including tax evasion and breach of trust.

No arrest warrant was issued. Winterkorn is under indictment in the U.S., and he is unlikely to leave Germany for fear of being extradited. (Germany does not extradite its own citizens.)

Volkswagen declined to comment on the charges, saying in a statement that these were investigations against individuals.

In March, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit against Volkswagen, accusing it of defrauding U.S. investors. The commission said Winterkorn had been aware of what it called a "massive" emissions fraud as early as November 2007. Similarly, a trial looking at the company's responsibility toward investors has been taking place in a civil law courtroom in Braunschweig since October.

In May 2018, the Justice Department indicted Winterkorn and several other Volkswagen executives on charges that they conspired in the rigging of diesel vehicles to feign compliance with federal pollution standards.

Klaus Ziehe, the senior public prosecutor in charge of the case, praised the collaboration between the Justice Department and his office.

"The Americans were on the case earlier than us, so we profited from their experiences," he said. "Conversely, we shared with them the results of official questioning of people involved with the case."

The prosecutor's office also said it was still investigating 36 other people who could face charges, though no timeline was given.

Other than Winterkorn, who is considered a public person, none of the other four people charged – or the three dozen investigated – were named because of German privacy laws.

The 692 pages outlining the charges still need to be approved by a Lower Saxony state court, in what is largely seen as a formality. Both the prosecutor's office and the Lower Saxony court are based in Braunschweig, near Wolfsburg, where Volkswagen's headquarters is based.

MARKET SUMMARY *Data provided by Bloomberg*

Chron.com/markets

ENERGY FUTURES

Prices in U.S. dollars per unit for energy commodities for the contract closest to delivery:

	C Date	Open	High	Low	Settle	Chg	Unit
Lt Sw Crude	MAY 19	63.76	63.84	63.03	63.40	-0.49	barrel
Natural gas	MAY 19	2.646	2.653	2.585	2.590	-0.070	MMBtu
Gas blend	MAY 19	2.03	2.03	2.00	2.01	-0.03	gal
Heating oil	MAY 19	2.07	2.07	2.05	2.06	-0.01	gal
Ethanol	MAY 19	1.33	1.34	1.32	1.34	0.00	gal

BLOOMBERG COMMODITY PRICE OUTLOOK

The median price of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg:

	2019 Forecast	2020 Forecast	2021 Forecast
Crude oil	60.30	65.30	63.60
Natural gas	3.06	3.07	3.00

ENERGY PRICES

Cash price in U.S. dollars paid at delivery for various commodities:

Name	Last Price	Pvs Day	Unit
Unleaded Gasoline - NY	2.03	2.06	gallon
North Sea Brent	70.90	71.04	barrel
W. Texas-Int. - Cushing	63.40	63.89	barrel
Nat Gas - Henry Hub	2.75	2.74	MMBtu

ETFS - $1,000 INVESTED IN EACH

Performance of various index-based investment products:

ENERGY

Ticker	Name	$1,000 return 1 mo	$1,000 return 6 mo	$1,000 return 1 yr
XLE	Energy Select Se	1,025	944	970
XES	SPDR Oil & Gas E	1,046	741	735
USO	US Oil Fund	1,085	875	977

METALS

Ticker	Name	$1,000 return 1 mo	$1,000 return 6 mo	$1,000 return 1 yr
IAU	iShares Gold T	990	1,049	955
SLV	iShares Silver T	981	1,019	897

SOFT/LIVESTOCK/GRAIN

Ticker	Name	$1,000 return 1 mo	$1,000 return 6 mo	$1,000 return 1 yr
JO	DJ-UBS Coffee	939	730	697
CORN	Teucrium Corn	980	929	864
CANE	Teucrium Sugar	1,007	943	918
CATL*	ETFS Live Cattle	998	1,080	1,171
COW	iPath DJ-UBS Liv	1,049	1,124	1,186

*Trades on London Stock Exchange

BLOOMBERG/CHRONICLE ENERGY INDEX

Top and bottom performers among Houston-based and other major energy companies:

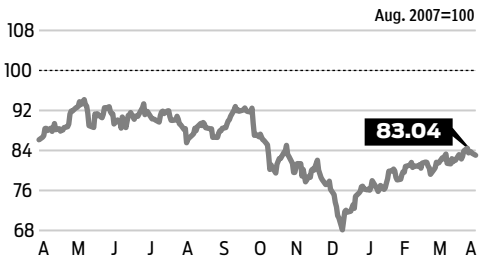
DAILY GAINERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	% Chg	Volume
NOV	Natl Oilwell	27.53	2.5	6,587,787
SLB	Schlumberger	46.40	1.6	11,156,385
CNX	Consol Enrg	10.74	1.4	3,185,904
MIND	MitchamInd	3.85	1.3	34,190
FTK	Flotek Indst	3.18	1.0	321,539
MCF	Contango Oil&G	3.25	0.9	32,322
EPM	Evolution Ptr	6.85	0.9	71,066
APC	Anadarko	62.26	0.8	28,995,918
HLX	Helix Enrgy	8.01	0.8	778,671
CKH	SEACOR	42.94	0.3	54,638

DAILY LOSERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	% Chg	Volume
ESV	Ensco Rowan	14.85	−5.8	10,278,642
IO	ION Geophys	13.60	−3.6	163,407
HFC	HollyFrontier	48.49	−3.5	2,093,493
NE	Noble Corp plc	2.85	−3.4	3,299,043
TTI	Tetra Tech	2.44	−3.2	228,250
CHK	ChesapkEng	3.07	−3.2	37,251,714
EOG	EOG Res	102.12	−3.0	6,083,897
OXY	Occidental	63.36	−3.0	11,584,786
MUR	Murphy Oil	28.56	−2.9	1,684,481
DVN	Devon Energy	32.57	−2.7	6,016,544

Performance of a basket of Houston-based and other major energy companies over the past 12 months:



Sinking bank stocks help send markets lower

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — U.S. stock indexes edged lower Monday, pulled down by sinking bank stocks, and the S&P 500 fell for just the third time in the past three weeks.

Goldman Sachs recorded one of the largest losses in the S&P 500 after describing a "muted start to the year," though its earnings for the first quarter still beat analysts' expectations. Citigroup also slipped after its earnings report, as banks lead off a quarterly reporting season that analysts expect to be the weakest in nearly three years.

The S&P 500 fell 1.83 points, or 0.1%, to 2,905.58. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 27.53, or 0.1%, to 26,384.77 and the Nasdaq composite lost 8.15, or 0.1%, to close at 7,976.01. The Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks dropped 5.63, or 0.4%, to 1,579.17.

The S&P 500 nevertheless remains within 0.9% of its record after a torrid start to the year, after the Federal Reserve said it may not raise interest rates this year.

"I think we're going to see equities continue to confound their critics and advance," said Margie Patel, senior portfolio manager at Wells Fargo Asset Management.

She expects growth for both the economy and corporate earnings to reaccelerate later this year, in large part because of the Federal Reserve's pledge to hit pause on interest rate hikes. That follows seven increases in the past two years, including the last one in December, that raised worries about a possible recession and helped send the S&P 500 to a nearly 20% loss at one point.

"If you look through history, recessions have been precipitated by the Federal Reserve tightening and causing recessions – telling banks, 'Don't make loans' and pulling out liquidity," she said. "This time, they got right up to the brink, and when the market had that violent reaction in December, that made them rethink their approach."

Optimism has also grown that the U.S. and China can resolve their trade dispute. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Saturday that the world's two largest economies were moving closer to an agreement.

Some of the market's biggest losses Monday came from the financial sector. Lighter trading activity during the first three months of the year meant that Goldman Sachs' revenue fell short of analysts' estimates, and its shares lost 3.8%.

Like Goldman Sachs, Citigroup also reported stronger profit for the first three months than analysts expected. But its stock slipped 0.1%.

Alliance Data Systems sank to the largest loss in the S&P 500 after it agreed to sell its Epsilon business to Publicis Groupe for $4.4 billion in cash, less than what some analysts had valued the business at. Alliance Data Systems lost 9.3%.

On the winning side was Waste Management, which jumped after it agreed to buy smaller rival Advanced Disposal for $3 billion. It will also assume $1.9 billion of debt in the deal.

Waste Management rose 2.4%, and Advanced Disposal surged 17.9%.

In the commodities markets, the price of oil gave back some of its big gains for the year. Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell 49 cents to settle at $63.40.

S&P 500 MOVERS

Top and bottom performers based on one-day percentage change in stock price:

DAILY GAINERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	1-day % Chg	1-month % Chg	Volume
ANTM	Anthem Inc	262.88	4.0	−13.2	3,805,283
UNH	UnitedHealth	230.20	3.1	−8.4	9,906,304
FTNT	Fortinet Inc	95.22	2.7	14.4	2,461,972
CVS	CVS Health Corp	54.22	2.7	−2.5	17,210,969
ULTA	Ulta Beauty Inc	353.94	2.6	4.6	677,916
NOV	NatOilwellVarco	27.53	2.5	4.0	6,587,787
WM	Waste Mgmt	104.26	2.4	3.3	2,907,369
DLTR	Dollar Tree Inc	106.81	2.3	7.0	2,479,920
BMY	BristolMyrsSqbb	46.50	2.0	−6.9	20,252,525
CI	Cigna Corp	163.82	2.0	−1.6	2,668,387

DAILY LOSERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	1-day % Chg	1-month % Chg	Volume
ADS	Allnce Data Sys	164.04	−9.3	−4.9	3,057,337
NKTR	Nektar Therpt	33.49	−4.7	−5.7	1,570,941
EA	Electronic Arts	97.85	−3.9	−1.1	3,898,131
GS	Goldman Sachs	199.91	−3.8	0.8	6,512,065
HFC	HollyFrontier	48.49	−3.5	−7.1	2,093,493
ATVI	ActivisinBlzzrd	45.75	−3.2	2.5	7,315,434
EOG	EOG Resources	102.12	−3.0	14.9	6,083,897
OXY	Occidental	63.36	−3.0	−3.2	11,584,786
MAT	Mattel Inc	13.19	−3.0	−8.8	4,846,084
EIX	Edison Intl	65.20	−2.9	2.0	4,475,114

BLOOMBERG HOUSTON CHRONICLE 150

The Bloomberg Houston 150 includes major companies based in Houston and significant employers in the area.

Name	Ticker	Last Price	Chg Day	% Chg YTD	52W Low	52W High	Div Yld
ABM Indst	ABM	37.49	0.07	16.8	25.64	37.67	1.92
AllegncBnc	ABTX	36.53	−0.32	12.9	28.58	46.85	…
Am Nat Ins	ANAT	118.48	−2.67	−6.9	115.14	155.24	2.77
Amazon.com	AMZN	1,844.87	1.81	22.8	1,307.00	2,050.50	…
Amer Midst	AMID	5.18	0.00	71.0	2.75	11.88	7.95
Anadarko	APC	62.26	0.48	42.0	40.40	76.70	1.93
Apache	APA	35.95	−0.55	37.0	24.56	50.03	2.78
Apergy	APY	40.79	−0.63	50.6	25.85	46.11	…
Archrock	AROC	10.19	−0.14	36.0	7.26	13.75	5.18
AT&T Inc	T	32.02	−0.18	12.2	26.80	35.82	6.37
BakrHghsGE	BHGE	25.95	−0.43	20.7	20.09	37.76	2.77
BancoBilbo	BBVA	6.21	−0.03	17.4	4.99	8.18	5.86
BenchElect	BHE	29.31	−0.07	38.4	20.01	31.50	2.05
BHP Group	BHP	56.02	−0.81	21.0	41.41	57.25	3.93
Bk of Am	BAC	29.84	−0.33	21.1	22.66	31.91	2.01
BlackStnMn	BSM	17.55	−0.31	13.4	15.23	19.29	8.43
Boeing	BA	375.46	−4.18	16.4	292.47	446.01	2.19
BP PLC	BP	44.67	0.00	17.8	36.28	47.83	5.51
Bristw Grp	BRS	1.07	−0.10	−56.0	0.96	18.91	…
Buckeye Pt	BPL	33.85	−0.15	16.8	25.71	42.68	8.86
C&JEn Svcs	CJ	15.22	−0.27	12.7	12.35	32.08	…
Cabot O&G	COG	27.36	0.06	22.4	20.95	27.65	1.02
CadenceBcp	CADE	20.24	−0.42	20.6	16.13	31.44	3.46
CamdenPpty	CPT	102.55	−0.07	16.5	82.60	103.41	3.12
CARBO Cera	CRR	3.27	−0.14	−6.0	2.84	11.86	…
Cardtroncs	CATM	34.86	−0.15	34.1	23.48	39.10	…
CarrizoO&G	CRZO	12.60	−0.32	11.6	9.67	31.57	…
CenterPt	CNP	30.50	−0.07	8.0	24.81	31.42	3.77
CheniereEn	CQP	42.62	−0.20	18.1	29.42	45.27	5.54
Chevron	CVX	120.14	0.38	10.4	100.22	131.08	3.96
Comcast	CMCSA	41.78	0.48	22.7	30.43	41.80	2.01
ComfortSys	FIX	57.13	1.96	30.8	40.85	59.83	0.67
Conn's Inc	CONN	24.93	0.33	32.2	17.00	42.65	…
ConocoPhil	COP	66.34	−1.03	6.4	56.75	80.24	1.84
ContangO&G	MCF	3.25	0.03	0.0	2.72	7.32	…
CrestwdEqy	CEQP	37.37	0.34	33.9	26.55	40.55	6.42
CrownCstle	CCI	127.40	−1.47	17.3	98.85	130.60	3.53
CVR Energy	CVI	42.98	−0.77	24.7	30.46	47.67	6.98
CVS Health	CVS	54.22	1.41	−17.2	51.77	82.15	3.69
Devon En	DVN	32.57	−0.91	44.5	20.37	46.54	1.11
DiamdOffsh	DO	11.45	−0.04	21.3	8.78	21.92	…
DowDuPont	DWDP	38.90	−0.57	8.2	32.87	48.36	3.91
DR Horton	DHI	45.42	0.07	31.0	32.39	46.91	1.32
Dril-Quip	DRQ	45.17	−0.13	50.4	26.62	58.95	…
DXP Ent	DXPE	43.79	−0.36	57.3	26.95	49.50	…
EnscoRowan	ESV	14.85	−0.91	4.3	12.76	38.04	1.08
EnterprsPr	EPD	29.37	−0.13	19.4	23.33	30.05	5.96
EOG Res	EOG	102.12	−3.19	17.1	82.04	133.53	0.86
EP Energy	EPE	0.32	−0.05	−54.0	0.21	3.50	…
Exterran	EXTN	17.05	−0.16	−3.7	15.58	31.39	…
ExxonMobil	XOM	80.65	−0.27	18.3	64.65	87.36	4.07
Flotek In	FTK	3.18	0.03	191.7	0.95	6.77	…
Fluor Corp	FLR	40.51	−0.67	25.8	29.78	62.08	2.07
ForumEnTch	FET	5.31	−0.18	28.6	3.51	16.03	…
Francesc's	FRAN	0.66	−0.01	−32.0	0.64	8.48	…
FreeprtMcM	FCX	13.69	−0.01	32.8	9.60	19.70	1.46
GE	GE	8.98	−0.02	23.4	6.40	14.99	0.45
Genesis En	GEL	23.24	0.03	25.8	17.55	25.52	9.47
GeospacTch	GEOS	13.66	−0.05	32.5	9.93	16.92	…
GoodrchPtr	GDP	14.80	0.16	9.6	11.60	15.75	…
Group1Auto	GPI	69.45	−1.04	31.7	48.69	81.16	1.50
Halcon Res	HK	1.40	−0.02	−17.6	1.17	5.89	…
Halliburtn	HAL	31.29	−0.04	17.7	24.70	54.91	2.30
Helix En	HLX	8.01	0.06	48.1	5.05	10.89	…
Hess Corp	HES	65.54	−0.56	61.8	35.59	74.81	1.53
Huntsman	HUN	24.51	−0.24	27.1	17.58	33.55	2.65
IES	IESC	17.94	−0.07	15.4	14.61	20.24	…
Insperity	NSP	128.86	−0.53	38.0	71.90	132.50	0.93
IONGeophys	IO	13.60	−0.51	162.5	4.53	30.90	…
Jacobs Eng	JEC	76.42	−0.58	30.7	55.17	82.24	0.89
JC Penney	JCP	1.24	−0.01	19.2	0.92	3.23	…
JPMorg Ch	JPM	109.94	−1.27	12.6	91.11	119.24	2.91
KBR Inc	KBR	20.74	0.41	36.6	13.90	22.22	1.54
Keane	FRAC	11.70	−0.18	43.0	7.44	16.95	…
KinderMrgn	KMI	19.79	−0.03	28.7	14.62	20.44	4.04
Kirby Corp	KEX	77.66	−0.19	15.3	60.63	94.05	…
Kraton	KRA	35.24	−0.47	61.4	19.13	53.99	…
Kroger	KR	25.47	−0.20	−7.4	23.52	32.74	2.20
LGI Homes	LGIH	66.84	0.00	47.8	37.16	81.88	…
Luby's Inc	LUB	1.46	0.03	21.7	0.99	2.89	…
LyondllBsl	LYB	92.22	−0.07	10.9	77.52	119.39	4.34
Macy's Inc	M	24.59	0.31	−17.4	22.73	41.99	6.14
MainSt Cap	MAIN	38.40	0.01	13.6	31.95	40.47	6.25
MarathonOl	MRO	17.38	−0.38	21.2	12.57	24.20	1.15
McDermott	MDR	9.14	0.14	39.8	6.10	23.36	…
MRC Global	MRC	18.58	−0.13	51.9	11.62	22.98	…
Nabors Ind	NBR	3.68	−0.04	84.0	1.81	8.87	1.09
NatOilwell	NOV	27.53	0.66	7.1	24.27	49.08	0.73
Natrl Res	NRP	41.36	−0.27	8.2	28.40	42.50	4.36
NCI Bld	NCS	5.89	−0.19	−18.8	5.80	23.35	…
NewparkRes	NR	9.01	−0.08	31.1	6.39	11.65	…
Noble Corp	NE	2.85	−0.10	8.8	2.35	7.44	…
Noble En	NBL	26.46	−0.41	41.0	17.11	37.76	1.66
NobleMidst	NBLX	37.27	0.37	29.2	26.08	56.40	6.29
NOW Inc	DNOW	15.25	−0.02	31.0	10.36	18.56	…
NRG Energy	NRG	42.29	0.02	6.8	29.90	43.66	0.28
Oasis Ptr	OAS	6.53	−0.09	18.1	4.74	14.57	…
Occidental	OXY	63.36	−1.97	3.2	56.83	87.67	4.93
Oceaneerng	OII	16.70	−0.12	38.0	10.74	28.62	…
Oil States	OIS	17.75	−0.45	24.3	13.20	38.95	…
Par Pac	PARR	18.39	−0.05	29.7	13.68	21.34	…
PattrsnUTI	PTEN	14.93	−0.27	44.3	9.49	23.99	1.07
Phillips66	PSX	96.24	−0.93	11.7	78.44	123.97	3.33
Phillips66	PSXP	50.79	−0.26	20.6	40.76	55.02	6.57
Plains GP	PAGP	24.76	−0.25	24.8	18.92	26.28	5.82
PlainsAllA	PAA	24.61	−0.16	22.8	19.34	27.70	5.85
Powel Inds	POWL	29.89	−0.30	19.5	22.55	41.42	3.48
PROS	PRO	43.59	0.66	38.8	28.18	44.33	…
ProspBc	PB	71.22	−0.68	14.3	57.01	76.92	2.30
QuanexBldg	NX	16.60	−0.09	22.1	10.70	20.30	1.93
QuantaSvcs	PWR	40.24	−0.15	33.7	27.90	40.47	0.40
RylDutch A	RDS/A	64.58	0.08	10.8	55.04	73.86	5.82
Schlumbrgr	SLB	46.40	0.75	28.6	34.99	75.43	4.31
Service	SCI	42.17	0.31	4.7	35.19	47.09	1.71
ShellMidst	SHLX	20.50	−0.20	24.9	15.86	25.08	7.80
SpirtfTXBn	STXB	21.46	0.14	−5.8	16.70	23.53	…
StageStors	SSI	1.07	−0.02	44.6	0.67	3.25	…
StewrtInfo	STC	44.00	−0.06	6.3	39.47	45.75	2.73
Sunoco LP	SUN	30.84	−0.07	13.4	23.80	31.88	10.71
SuperiorEn	SPN	5.04	0.01	50.4	2.87	12.73	…
SW Energy	SWN	4.56	−0.03	33.7	3.23	6.23	…
SwAirlines	LUV	52.29	−0.84	12.5	44.28	64.02	1.22
Sysco Corp	SYY	69.63	0.62	11.1	59.44	75.98	2.24
TailrdBrnd	TLRD	7.74	0.30	−43.3	7.36	35.94	9.30
Targa Res	TRGP	39.96	−0.15	10.9	33.55	59.21	9.11
Target	TGT	81.98	1.25	24.0	60.15	90.39	3.12
TCPipeLins	TCP	36.50	−0.30	13.6	22.64	37.94	7.12
Team Inc	TISI	18.40	−0.10	25.6	13.91	25.55	…
TechnipFMC	FTI	24.42	−0.25	24.7	18.20	34.39	2.13
Tetra Tech	TTI	2.44	−0.08	45.2	1.29	5.11	…
TOTAL SA	TOT	56.36	0.02	8.0	49.70	65.69	5.09
Transocean	RIG	8.60	−0.22	23.9	6.19	14.47	…
TrnsCanada	TRP	46.44	−0.12	30.1	34.58	46.70	4.81
UnitedCntl	UAL	84.52	−0.97	0.9	65.45	97.85	…
UPS Inc	UPS	113.64	−0.82	16.5	89.89	125.09	3.38
Valero	VLO	87.65	−0.76	16.9	68.81	126.98	4.11
Verizon	VZ	58.71	−0.03	4.4	46.09	61.58	4.10
W&T Offshr	WTI	6.74	0.02	63.6	3.62	9.88	…
Walgreen	WBA	54.24	0.79	−20.6	53.32	86.31	3.24
WalMart	WMT	102.43	0.87	10.0	81.78	106.21	2.07
Waste Cnct	WCN	89.05	1.04	19.9	70.28	89.18	0.72
Waste Mgmt	WM	104.26	2.47	17.2	79.96	105.68	1.97
Weathfd	WFT	0.57	−0.01	1.9	0.22	3.75	…
WeinRlty	WRI	29.77	0.00	20.0	23.80	30.34	5.31
WellsFargo	WFC	46.77	0.28	1.5	43.02	59.53	3.85
WestlakPrt	WLKP	22.60	−0.20	−6.3	20.25	27.75	7.64
WestrnMdst	WES	34.81	−0.12	25.5	25.89	38.62	6.93
WhitstnREI	WSR	12.14	−0.06	−1.0	10.39	14.65	9.39
Wstlk Chem	WLK	77.56	1.16	17.2	59.78	124.30	1.29

BLOOMBERG HOUSTON CHRONICLE 150 MOVERS

DAILY GAINERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	1-day % Chg	1-month % Chg	Volume
TLRD	TailoredBrnds	7.74	4.0	−12.1	2,399,799
FIX	Comfort Sys	57.13	3.6	8.9	537,976
CVS	CVS Health	54.22	2.7	−2.5	17,210,969
NOV	Natl Oilwell	27.53	2.5	4.0	6,587,787
WM	Waste Mgmt	104.26	2.4	3.3	2,907,369
LUB	Luby's Inc	1.46	2.1	0.0	2,473
KBR	KBR Inc	20.74	2.0	8.9	1,865,378
SLB	Schlumberger	46.40	1.6	9.5	11,156,385
MDR	McDermott	9.14	1.6	15.8	3,305,400
TGT	Target Corp	81.98	1.5	6.9	3,256,853

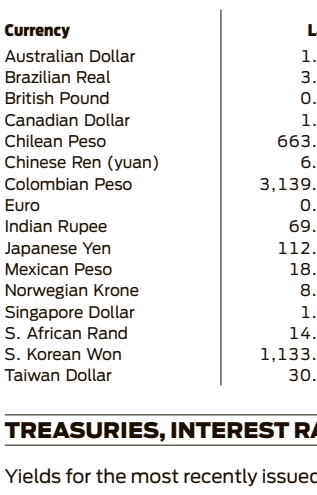
DAILY LOSERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	1-day % Chg	1-month % Chg	Volume
EPE	EP Energy	0.32	−12.7	−34.4	1,469,119
BRS	Bristw Grp	1.07	−8.5	−5.3	1,462,044
ESV	Ensco Rowan	14.85	−5.8	−12.2	10,278,642
CRR	CARBO Cera	3.27	−4.1	−15.1	317,032
IO	ION Geophys	13.60	−3.6	−12.2	163,407
NE	Noble Corp	2.85	−3.4	−1.4	3,299,043
FET	Forum En Tech	5.31	−3.3	−11.2	859,240
TTI	Tetra Tech	2.44	−3.2	−4.3	228,250
NCS	NCI Bld	5.89	−3.1	−11.8	617,038
EOG	EOG Res	102.12	−3.0	14.9	6,083,897

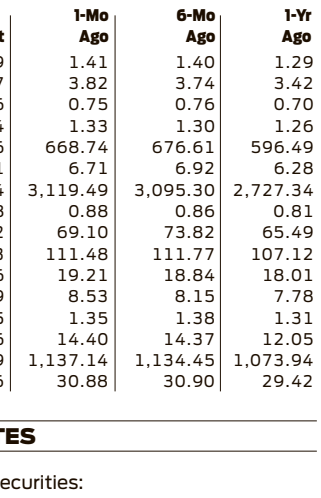
MARKET INDEXES

Daily close of the Nasdaq Composite index and the S&P 500 over the past six months:

NASDAQ



S&P 500



U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL STOCK INDEXES

Daily close and change in value for selected stock indexes:

U.S. INDEXES

Index	Last Price	Chg.	% Chg	YTD
Dow Jones Ind.	26,384.77	−27.53	−0.1	13.1
Nasdaq Composite	7,976.01	−8.15	−0.1	20.2
S&P 500	2,905.58	−1.83	−0.1	15.9
BBG Houston 150	542.63	−1.55	−0.3	18.7
DJ US Total Stk p	29,945.41	−27.81	−0.1	16.4
Russell 2000	1,579.17	−5.63	−0.4	17.1

INTERNATIONAL INDEXES

Index	Last Price	Chg.	% Chg	YTD
FTSE 100	7,436.87	−0.19	0.0	10.5
Hang Seng	29,810.72	−99.04	−0.3	15.3
Mexico IPC	44,631.79	−54.28	−0.1	7.2
Nikkei 225	22,169.11	298.55	1.4	10.8
S&P/Toronto S E	16,515.46	34.93	0.2	15.3

WHAT A U.S. DOLLAR IS WORTH IN . . .

Value of the U.S. dollar in selected currencies:

Currency	Last	1-Mo Ago	6-Mo Ago	1-Yr Ago
Australian Dollar	1.39	1.41	1.40	1.29
Brazilian Real	3.87	3.82	3.74	3.42
British Pound	0.76	0.75	0.76	0.70
Canadian Dollar	1.34	1.33	1.30	1.26
Chilean Peso	663.26	668.74	676.61	596.49
Chinese Ren (yuan)	6.71	6.71	6.92	6.28
Colombian Peso	3,139.84	3,119.49	3,095.30	2,727.34
Euro	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.81
Indian Rupee	69.42	69.10	73.82	65.49
Japanese Yen	112.03	111.48	111.77	107.12
Mexican Peso	18.86	19.21	18.84	18.01
Norwegian Krone	8.49	8.53	8.15	7.78
Singapore Dollar	1.35	1.35	1.38	1.31
S. African Rand	14.06	14.40	14.37	12.05
S. Korean Won	1,133.09	1,137.14	1,134.45	1,073.94
Taiwan Dollar	30.86	30.88	30.90	29.42

TREASURIES, INTEREST RATES

Yields for the most recently issued securities:

TREASURIES

Bill/Note	Last Yld	Yld Pvs Day Clo	Yld 1 Day Net Chg	Yld Wk Ago	Yld Mo Ago	Yld 3-Mo Ago	Yld Yr Ago
3-month t-bill	2.40	2.43	−0.02	2.41	2.44	2.49	1.75
6 month t-bill	2.44	2.45	−0.02	2.44	2.48	2.49	1.96
2-year t note	2.39	2.39	0.00	2.36	2.45	2.54	2.50
5-year t note	2.37	2.38	−0.01	2.33	2.42	2.55	2.74
10-year t note	2.56	2.57	−0.01	2.52	2.59	2.71	2.83
30-year t bond	2.97	2.98	−0.01	2.93	3.01	3.07	3.03

PRIME, FED FUNDS

	Rate	6-month change	1-year change
Bloomberg Prime Rate	5.50	4.76	15.79
Fed Funds Target	2.50	11.11	42.86

COMMODITY PRICES

Closing values for the most active contract of various commodities:

METALS

Name	Contract Date	Last Price	Pvs Close	Day % Chg	YTD % Chg	Unit
Palladium	JUN 19	1,334.70	1,350.20	−1.1	12.9	usd/oz
Copper	MAY 19	2.94	2.95	−0.4	11.3	usd/pd
Gold	JUN 19	1,291.30	1,295.20	−0.3	−0.3	usd/oz
Platinum	JUL 19	894.50	898.50	−0.4	11.0	usd/oz
Silver	MAY 19	14.98	14.96	−0.1	−4.4	usd/oz

AGRICULTURE

Name	Contract Date	Last Price	Pvs Close	Day % Chg	YTD % Chg	Unit
Live Cattle	JUN 19	1.21	1.21	0.0	3.8	usd/pd
Coffee	JUL 19	0.94	0.93	1.0	−12.9	usd/pd
Corn	JUL 19	3.72	3.70	0.5	−4.9	usd/bu
Cotton	JUL 19	0.77	0.79	−2.3	3.2	usd/pd
Lumber	MAY 19	348.00	348.70	−0.6	1.9	usd/ 1k bd ft
Orange Juice	MAY 19	1.10	1.07	3.0	−13.5	usd/pd
Soybean	JUL 19	9.13	9.09	0.4	−0.8	usd/bu
Wheat	JUL 19	4.63	4.69	−1.1	−10.7	usd/bu

Jean Pieri / Associated Press

A customer tries a sample of a pain cream that contains CBD, or cannabidiol, for her arthritis in Maplewood, Minn., in August. Sales of CBD products were estimated to reach $2 billion last year, according to Cowen & Co.

National retailers embrace explosion of CBD products

By Anne D'Innocenzio
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Mainstream retailers are leaping into the world of products such as skin creams and oils that tout such benefits as reducing anxiety and helping you sleep.

The key ingredient? CBD, or cannabidiol, a compound derived from hemp and marijuana that doesn't cause a high.

Retailers are taking advantage of the booming industry even as its legal status and health benefits remain murky. And the flood of products is testing how federal regulators can police it.

Retail sales of CBD consumer products in 2018 were estimated to reach as much as $2 billion, according to Cowen & Co. By 2025, that figure could hit $16 billion in retail sales, the investment firm predicts.

CBD has been cropping up in everything from dog treats to bath balms in the past few months. Domestic diva Martha Stewart is working with Canada's Canopy Growth Corp. to develop new CBD products. And the nation's largest mall owner, Simon Property Group, has hooked up with a cannabis goods-maker to open roughly 100 kiosks at its U.S. malls by midsummer.

Authentic Fitness is planning to sell CBD foot creams, oils and soaps under the Nine West brand starting this fall. And CVS Health is beginning to sell CBD-infused creams, sprays, lotions and salves at more than 800 stores in seven states; drug store rivals Walgreens and Rite Aid are following suit.

Even high-end retailers are getting in on the action, charging anywhere from $12 to $150 an ounce. Barneys New York has opened a shop in Beverly Hills, Calif., that sells CBD-infused creams along with hand-blown glass bongs and other accessories, while Neiman Marcus is offering an array of CBD-infused beauty products from balms, lotions, soaps and masks in five of its stores.

"There's definitely a huge opportunity for expansion," said Matthew Mazzucca, creative director at Barneys New York.

He said, however, the legal hurdles are still hard to navigate and companies should take it slow.

Indeed, some are doing just that. Walmart says it doesn't have plans to carry CBD-infused products at this time, and Target, which in 2017 sold hemp extract products on its website but then quickly yanked them, said it's monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, online behemoth Amazon is staying clear of the stuff. Spokeswoman Cecilia Fan says the company prohibits the sale of products that contain CBD and will remove them from its site if it sees them.

CBD's ubiquity persists despite little evidence for all the health claims the industry touts. If you believe in the hype, CBD treats pain, reduces anxiety, helps you sleep and keeps you focused. But most claims are based on studies in rats, mice or in test tubes. Human research has been done but on small numbers of people.

Only drugs that have been reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective can make claims that they treat or prevent diseases or medical conditions. Many CBD producers try to get around that by using vague language about general health and well-being.

That seems to be good enough for at least some shoppers eager to calm their nerves.

"We are a more anxious society and people are looking for cures," said Kit Yarrow, a consumer psychologist and professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. "There's a growing distrust in business and pharma and so people are wanting to find cures that seem more real and wholesome."

Amy Nichols, a former food scientist from Indianapolis, reflects that distrust. Nichols, 46, who has symptoms from autoimmune illness, has been using CBD oils by a brand called Recept that she sticks under her tongue.

"For me, this is a more natural solution to treating symptoms that I am having instead of taking painkillers," said Nichols, who now works as a sales representative for Recept. "I have more energy. I get more done. I am in less pain. I am more active."

CBD is operating within a patchwork of regulations that vary by cities and states. In New York City, regulators are prohibiting outlets to sell CBD-infused food and beverages, threatening them with fines. Other states such as Ohio and California are taking similar action. Maine's governor, on the other hand, signed an emergency bill in late March allowing CBD in food products after state inspectors warned stores to pull them from shelves earlier in the year.

The farm bill, passed late last year, gave states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture authority to regulate industrial hemp, a type of cannabis that is high in CBD. That opened the door to hemp-derived CBD products.

But the farm bill gave the FDA authority over the food supply, and the agency recently warned that it's illegal to add CBD or THC – the compound that gives marijuana its high – to human or animal food and beverages and transport it over state lines. Dietary supplements using CBD are also illegal.

Bigger players such as CVS and Walgreens are sticking with skin creams and lotions where the FDA hasn't specifically expressed concern. Others are "rolling the dice" and selling CBD-infused drinks and supplements anyway in hopes of a profit, said Whitt Steineker, a Birmingham, Ala., attorney who advises the hemp industry.

"They have determined the reward is worth the risk," Steineker said.

Workers begin removing fuel in pool at one of Fukushima's melted reactors

By Mari Yamaguchi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO – The operator of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant began removing fuel Monday from a cooling pool at one of three reactors that melted down in the 2011 disaster, a milestone in what will be a decades-long process to decommission the facility.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said workers started removing the first of 566 used and unused fuel units stored in the pool at Unit 3. The fuel units in the pool located high up in reactor buildings are intact despite the disaster, but the pools are not enclosed, so removing the units to safer ground is crucial to avoid disaster in case of another major earthquake similar to the one that caused the 2011 tsunami.

TEPCO says the removal at Unit 3 will take two years, followed by the two other reactors, where about 1,000 fuel units remain in the storage pools.

Removing fuel units from the cooling pools comes ahead of the real challenge of removing melted fuel from inside the reactors, but details of how that might be done are still largely unknown. Removing the fuel in the cooling pools was delayed more than four years by mishaps, high radiation and radioactive debris from an explosion that occurred at the time of the reactor meltdowns, underscoring the difficulties that remain.

Workers are remotely operating a crane built underneath a jelly roll-shaped roof cover to raise the fuel from a storage rack in the pool and place it into a protective cask. The whole process occurs underwater to prevent radiation leaks. Each cask will be filled with seven fuel units, then lifted from the pool and lowered to a truck that will transport the cask to a safer cooling pool elsewhere at the plant.

The work is carried out remotely from a control room about 500 meters (yards) away because of still-high radiation levels inside the reactor building that houses the pool.

"I believe everything is going well so far," plant chief Tomohiko Isogai told Japanese public broadcaster NHK. "We will watch the progress at the site as we put safety first. Our goal is not to rush the process but to carefully proceed with the decommissioning work."

About an hour after the work began Monday, the first fuel unit was safely stored inside the cask, TEPCO spokesman Takahiro Kimoto said. Monday's operation was to end after a fourth unit is placed inside the cask, he said. No major damage was found on the fuel unit, but plant officials will closely examine if there are any pinholes or other irregularities, Kimoto said.

The removal, however, raises a storage capacity concern at the plant because the common pool, where fuel from the Unit 3 pool heads to, already has 6,000 fuel units and is almost full. Kimoto said TEPCO has made room at the common pool for the incoming fuel by moving years-old and sufficiently cooled fuel into dry casks for safer, long-term storage, though further details are being worked out.

In 2014, TEPCO safely removed all 1,535 fuel units from the storage pool at a fourth reactor that was idle and had no fuel inside its core when the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami occurred.

Robotic probes have photographed and detected traces of damaged nuclear fuel in the three reactors that had meltdowns, but the exact location and other details of the melted fuel are largely unknown. Removing fuel from the cooling pools will help free up space for the subsequent removal of the melted fuel, though details on how to gain access to it have yet to be decided.

Experts say the melted fuel in the three reactors amounts to more than 800 tons, an enormous amount that is more than six times that of the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island.

In February, a remote-controlled robot with tongs removed pebbles of nuclear debris from the Unit 2 reactor but was unable to remove larger chunks, indicating a robot would need to be developed that can break the chunks into smaller pieces. Toshiba Corp.'s energy systems unit, which developed the robot, said the findings were key to determining the proper equipment and technologies needed to remove the melted fuel, the most challenging part of the decommissioning.

Legal Notices

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LEGAL NOTICES | **LEGAL NOTICES** | **LEGAL NOTICES**

In accordance with Federal Regulations, Aldine ISD is providing notice to all nonprofit, private schools, which includes home schools with nonprofit status that the district will be making application for federal funds for the 2019-2020 school-year. Federal funds are available to serve private schools who meet federal guidelines. The meeting will be held **Friday, May 3, 2019 @ 8:30 for out of district boundary schools and 10:30 am for in district boundary schools in the Dr. Wanda Bamberg Professional Development and Resource Center, Teaching Theater #1, 9999 Veterans Memorial Street, Houston, TX 77038.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Aldine ISD at (281) 985-6954 to request eligibility information.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS | **NOTICE** TO CREDITORS | **BIDS** & PROPOSALS

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Ext. 6435 or 4204
*$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication
*$1.92 per line over 36 lines

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Keith C. Porter, Deceased, were issued on the 10th day of April 2019, in Cause No. 474526, pending in Probate Court No. 2, Harris County, Texas, to: Jennifer Jeffery.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Robin L. Apostolakis**
Martin, Earl & Stilwell, LLP
1400 Woodloch Forest Drive, Ste. 590
The Woodlands, TX 77380
DATED the 12th day of April 2019.

By: /s/Robin L. Apostolakis
Robin L. Apostolakis
State Bar No. 24045416
1400 Woodloch Forest Drive, Ste. 590
The Woodlands, TX 77380
Telephone: (281) 419 6200
Facsimile: (281) 419 0250
www.meslawfirm.com

BIDS & PROPOSALS | **BIDS** & PROPOSALS

INVITATION TO BID DERS

Sealed proposals for the Clearing and Grubbing to serve The Enclave at Bay Colony West, Section 2, within Bay Colony West Municipal Utility District, will be received at the office of Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, 3100 West Alabama, Houston, Texas 77098 (Tel. 713-520 9570) until **10:00 A.M. CST, Wednesday, May 1st, 2019** and then publicly opened and read. A NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF DANNENBAUM ENGINEERING CORPORATION ON Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. CST. Each bid must be accompanied by certified check or bid bond, duly executed, in the amount of five (5%) percent of the bid. Bid Documents will be available online at www.civcastusa.com.

BAY COLONY WEST MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

CORRECTION:

RFP No. 4019000105 For: Turnkey Operation of Northwest BOF. Solicitation will be available on or about 04/15/2019.

Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/

If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

LEGAL NOTICES | **LEGAL NOTICES**

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, HOUSTON DIVISION

In re:) Chapter 11
PARKER DRILLING COMPANY, *et al.*,[1]) Case No. 18-36958 (MI)
Debtors.) (Jointly Administered)

NOTICE OF (I) ENTRY OF CONFIRMATION ORDER, (II) OCCURRENCE OF EFFECTIVE DATE, AND (III) RELATED BAR DATES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, on March 7, 2019, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the "Court") entered the *Order Confirming the Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Parker Drilling Company and Its Debtor Affiliates* [Docket No. 459] (the "Confirmation Order"), pursuant to which the Court confirmed the *Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Parker Drilling Company and Its Debtor Affiliates* (the "Plan"), a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A to the Confirmation Order.[2]

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, the Effective Date, as defined in the Plan, occurred on **March 26, 2019**.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, pursuant to Article V.B of the Plan, any Proofs of Claim with respect to Claims arising from the rejection of an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease pursuant to the Plan or otherwise must be filed with the Court within 30 days after the date of the order of the Court approving such rejection. **Any Claims arising from the rejection of an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease that are not Filed within such time will be automatically Disallowed, forever barred from assertion, and shall not be enforceable against, as applicable, the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Estates, or property of the foregoing parties, without the need for any objection by the Debtors or Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, or further notice to, or action, order, or approval of the Court or any other Entity, and any Claim arising out of the rejection of the Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease shall be deemed fully satisfied, released, and discharged, notwithstanding anything in a Proof of Claim to the contrary.** Claims arising from the rejection of an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease shall be classified as General Unsecured Claims and shall be treated in accordance with Article III.B.6 of the Plan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, pursuant to Article II.B of the Plan, all requests for payment of Professional Fee Claims for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred prior to the Confirmation Date must be Filed with the Court no later than 45 days after the Effective Date.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, pursuant to Article XII.A of the Plan, the terms of the Plan and the Plan Supplement are immediately effective and enforceable and deemed binding on the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and any and all Holders of Claims or Interests (irrespective whether such Holders of Claims or Interests are deemed to have accepted the Plan), all Entities that are parties to or are subject to the settlements, compromises, releases, discharges, and injunctions described in the Plan, each Entity acquiring property under the Plan, and any and all non-Debtor parties to Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases with the Debtors.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, the Plan, the Confirmation Order, and all other documents filed in these chapter 11 cases are available free of charge by visiting https://cases.primeclerk.com/parkerdrilling or by calling (855) 631-5345 (toll-free within the U.S. or Canada) or (347) 338-6451 (outside the U.S. or Canada). You may also obtain copies of any pleadings by visiting the Court's website at https://ecf.txsb.uscourts.gov in accordance with the procedures and fees set forth therein.

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Parker Drilling Company (8660); 2M-TEK, Inc. (1761); Anachoreta, Inc. (3667); Pardril, Inc. (4469); Parker Aviation Inc. (6372); Parker Drilling Arctic Operating, LLC (6834); Parker Drilling Company of Niger (4204); Parker Drilling Company North America, Inc. (6381); Parker Drilling Company of Oklahoma Incorporated (8949); Parker Drilling Company of South America, Inc. (0657); Parker Drilling Management Services, Ltd. (7200); Parker Drilling Offshore Company, LLC (9092); Parker Drilling Offshore USA, L.L.C. (1469); Parker North America Operations, LLC (1180); Parker Technology, Inc. (6599); Parker Technology, L.L.C. (1875); Parker Tools, LLC (8864); Parker-VSE, LLC (2282); Quail USA, LLC (8885); and Quail Tools, L.P. (1471). The Debtors' service address is: 5 Greenway Plaza, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77046.

[2] Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plan and the Confirmation Order, as applicable.

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BUSINESS

Starbucks turns to solar for Texas stores

By Maria Halkias
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Starbucks is investing in solar farms across Texas as part of an effort to annually save $50 million in utility costs over the next ten years.

Two completed, 10-megawatt Texas solar farms owned by Cypress Creek Renewables in the Texas towns of Wharton and Blossom, are providing enough energy for the equivalent of 360 Starbucks stores in Lone Star State, including stores in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Plano and Arlington.

Additionally, Starbucks is investing in six new Cypress Creek solar farms in the state, representing 50 megawatts of solar energy.

"Starbucks and other forward-looking companies are carrying out their bold renewable energy targets, and Cypress Creek is proud to provide the innovative and tailored energy solutions needed to bring their vision to life," said Matthew McGovern, Cypress Creek CEO.

In total, the portfolio of eight projects announced Monday will reduce carbon usage by 101.000 tons per year. Starbucks said that's the equivalent of planting nearly 2.5 million trees.

Nick Ansell / Tribune News Service

Over the past two years, Starbucks has spent more than $140 million toward renewable energy development.

"Our long-standing commitment to renewable energy supports our greener retail initiative and demonstrates our aspiration to sustainable coffee, served sustainably," said Rebecca Zimmer, Starbucks director of global environmental impact. She said the company is investing in new, renewable energy projects in store communities, "which we know is something our partners and customers can appreciate for their local economy and for the environment."

The Seattle-based coffee giant didn't break out its solar investment in Texas, but said over the past two years it has spent more than $140 million toward renewable energy development.

The company said renewable energy and other green efforts has saved it about $30 million in annual operating costs over the last decade.

"At Starbucks, we are proud of our 30-year legacy in environmental leadership as we know the planet is our most important partner," Zimmer said.

Chris Roetheli, business development officer with the USBCDC, said solar tax equity investments are increasing in popularity among non-traditional investors, like Starbucks.

"Starbucks is taking a unique approach – investing in solar farms regionally to support a specific group of its stores," Roetheli said. "This is a new concept and one that I think other companies are watching and may follow. It's an interesting model that allows them to talk specifically about the impact of their investments."

Businesswire.com contributed to this report.

EU moves to limit focus of trade negotiations with U.S.

By Lorne Cook
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS – The European Union approved Monday its terms for negotiating a new trade deal with the United States, but set up a possible show-down with Washington by refusing to include agricultural products in the talks.

Making public the mandate for the EU's executive commission to conduct negotiations on their behalf, the bloc's member countries said that the new deal will focus exclusively on eliminating tariffs on industrial goods.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said the commission wants to wrap the talks up within six months, and that she would contact her U.S. counterpart Robert Lighthizer later Monday to work out when formal negotiations might begin.

"We are now ready to move ahead into the next phase of EU-U.S. relations," Malmstrom told reporters in Brussels. "If we agree to start, I think it can go quite quickly. There are sensitivities, absolutely, but we can manage this quite quickly." The commission's term in office expires at the end of October.

The trade talks are the result of a preliminary deal reached last July by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and U.S. President Donald Trump as Brussels sought to head off a looming trans-Atlantic trade war after Trump slapped tariffs on imports of EU steel and aluminum.

The United States has long wanted more access to the EU's protected market for farm products. But William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that Trump "gave agriculture away" in his meeting with Juncker, agreeing to focus U.S.-EU talks on non-automotive industrial products.

Leaving out agriculture is likely to hobble the negotiations at the outset, Reinsch said. But he added that "there are ways out of the mess" - the two sides could agree, for instance, to tackle farm trade in a later round of talks.

Trump imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on imported aluminum from the EU on June 1. He said the move was to protect U.S. national security interests, but the Europeans claim it is simply protectionism and breaks global trade rules.

In response, the EU introduced "rebalancing" tariffs on about 2.8 billion euros worth ($3.2 billion) of U.S. steel, agricultural and other products.

Trump has held out the threat of slapping auto tariffs on European cars should the trade talks fail to progress. Malmstrom has previously warned that the EU would break off any trade negotiations if he does.

Asked whether U.S. Congress would accept any deal that does not involve agriculture, Malmstrom said: "This is limited, but still meaningful, win-win negotiations that we are offering and that was agreed between the two presidents."

Before Trump came to office, the Europeans had been trying for three years to conclude a more wide-ranging Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Pact with the United States.

The pact was meant to lift trade barriers between the world's biggest trading partners, spark sorely-needed economic growth and create new jobs. Malmstrom underlined that the terms of that draft agreement are obsolete and that TTIP, as it is known, is now officially "in the freezer."

Ivanka Trump looks to eliminate women's barriers during global trip

By Catherine Lucey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia – Visiting Africa to promote female economic development, Ivanka Trump on Monday sought to spotlight laws and customs that hold women on the continent back, from restrictions on property ownership to gender-based violence.

The president's daughter and senior adviser, on a four-day trip to promote a White House global women's project, spoke about roadblocks for women during a policy discussion with Ethiopia's president and after signing a joint statement with the African Union Commission.

"We can and we must address these barriers to women's equality and countries' prosperity," Trump said during a panel discussion held at the headquarters of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa. She pointed to the limited number of female landowners on the continent and said some countries have laws allowing men to block their wives from working.

In the agreement, the United States and the African Union Commission pledged to help empower women and to fight problems such as child marriage, human trafficking and sexual abuse. She signed it at the commission's headquarters along with Kwesi Quartey, the commission's deputy chairman.

Trump highlighted the "collective goal" to eliminate gender-based violence and stressed the shared focus on improving access to education and business opportunities.

On her second day in Ethiopia, Trump delivered her message on gender equity in a country long considered a patriarchal society, where women and girls struggle with access to jobs and education. Female genital mutilation continues in some areas, although the government has outlawed the practice.

Ethiopia has pursued sweeping political and economic reforms under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Last year, lawmakers approved a cabinet with women making up a record 50 percent of ministers and elected President Sahle-Work Zewde, the first woman to hold the largely ceremonial post.

Mulugeta Ayene / Associated Press

Ivanka Trump, President Trump's daughter and senior adviser, center, arrives Monday for the African Women's Empowerment Dialogue in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

Trump met separately with both leaders Monday, sitting with Zewde in a formal room at the presidential palace.

"I can say that you came at the right time. Africa is on the rise," Zewde told Trump as the two participated in the panel discussion before a packed, largely female audience.

During the event, Trump and David Bohigian, acting director of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, announced a new financing initiative for women in Africa. Known as OPIC 2X Africa, the effort will directly invest $350 million – and seek additional private investment – in businesses and funds owned by women, led by women or working to help women.

OPIC provides loans, loan guarantees and political risk insurance, funding projects that stretch across continents and industries.

Trump started her day at Holy Trinity Cathedral, where she met with religious leaders and laid a wreath to mourn the victims of the Ethiopian Airlines crash that occurred soon after takeoff last month.

DEAL

From page B1

for Waste Management's shareholders," Fish said in a statement.

Waste Management has more than 20 million customers throughout North America. The company in 2018 earned $1.9 billion in profits on revenues of $14.9 billion, according to its financial filings.

As of Dec. 31, Waste Management had about 43,700 full-time employees. It owned or operated 252 landfill sites, which it says is the largest network of landfills in North America, and managed 314 transfer stations that consolidate, compact and transport waste for larger urban markets where the distance to landfills is typically farther. Waste Management also operated 102 facilities that process recyclable materials.

"With this acquisition, we will grow our asset footprint to serve more customers and communities and generate significant growth and value creation opportunities for Waste Management's shareholders."

Jim Fish, Waste Management CEO

Waste Management said it would pay $3 billion in cash and assume $1.9 billion in Advanced Disposals net debt, financing the transaction with bank debt and senior notes. The deal is expected to close by the first quarter of 2020 .

Waste Management's stock rose $2.47, or 2.4 percent, to close at $104.26 a share. Advanced Disposal's stock leaped 18 percent, or $4.85 a share, to close at $31.99.

"We view Waste Management as an industry leader with one of the most respected brands in the nation," Richard Burke, CEO of Advanced Disposal, said in the news release. "This acquisition stands as a testament to the strength of the Advanced Disposal business and brings together two strong waste management teams with extensive environmental services expertise to better serve our customers and communities."

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LIFE TRIBUTES

Fath, Linda
Flanagan, Mary
Glover, Esther
Hebert, Katherine
Jacobson, Marcus
Malone, John
Martin, James
Mitchell, Gerald
Papayoti, Gregory
Vasquez, Alberto
Vogelsang, Bernard
Zwirek, Chelsea

ESTHER THORNTON GLOVER

1946-2019

Esther Thornton Glover passed away on the morning of Sunday, the 7th of April 2019 at MD Anderson Hospital with her family at her side. She fought a two-year battle with esophageal cancer.

Esther was born on the 9th of November 1946 in Marceline, Missouri. She was especially proud that Marceline was the boyhood home of Walt Disney and the exact model for Main Street USA at Disneyland. The small town formed her wise perspective of life in America, just as it had Walt Disney's.

Esther earned her BA from William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri, her Master's Degree in English Literature from The University of Missouri at Columbia and she completed her coursework for her Ph.D. in English Literature.

Following school Esther moved to Minneapolis where she taught eighth grade English and American History. Esther and her husband Gene moved to Santa Barbara, California where they lived until moving to Houston in 2004.

Esther loved playing the piano. With the concerted effort and support of her mother and father Helen and Bernard Thornton, Esther started piano lessons at age 4. Esther played regularly for Bethany Baptist Church in Marceline. She was an accomplished sight reader of music and was the regular pianist at her children's primary school, Montecito Union. Because of her talent Kenny Loggins asked her to fill in on one of his Christmas Albums and she helped him write the Montecito Union School Anthem. In the 1980's, Esther and a group of friends formed a singing group called "Tuxedo" and performed around Santa Barbara. She took great pleasure in writing her own lyrics to popular songs for special occasions of her friends.

Esther was a member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, The Garden Club of Houston, The Houstonian, Texas Corinthian Yacht Club, The Forest Club, and Bolero. In Santa Barbara, Esther was a member of the Santa Barbara Garden Club, where she served as past-President, The Little Town Club, The Santa Barbara Yacht Club, Birnam Wood Golf Club, and The Santa Barbara Club. Esther was an accomplished bridge player, needle pointer and quilter. Esther also loved sailing off the coast of California and spent weeks at a time aboard the Lina Marta cruising the Channel Islands. One of her fondest memories was living on her boat in Avalon Harbor, Catalina Island; living as a regular in the small town atmosphere she knew so well.

Esther leaves to mourn her husband of thirty-five years, Eugene George Glover; her son, Matthew Tucker Renshaw and his wife Elizabeth; and their three children, Ryan Elizabeth, Benjamin Glover and Jane Kelley; her daughter, Leslie Glover Fairbanks and her husband Charles (AJ); and their two children, Charles Warren and Lilah Esther. She is also survived by her brother, Tom Thornton and his wife Cindy; and their sons, Zach and Tim.

A memorial service is to be conducted at one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, the 18th of April, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road in Houston, where The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr., Rector and The Rev. Jonathan V. Adams Associate for Pastoral Care and Outreach, are to officiate.

Immediately following, all are invited to greet the family during a reception to be held in the adjacent Bagby Parish Hall.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed to The Garden Club of Houston Endowment Fund, 4212 San Felipe PMB 486, Houston, TX 77027 or The Garden Club of Santa Barbara, PO Box 5773, Santa Barbara, CA 93150.

Please visit Esther's online memorial tribute at www.geohlewis.com.

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Dignity

LINDA SUSAN FATH

1955-2019

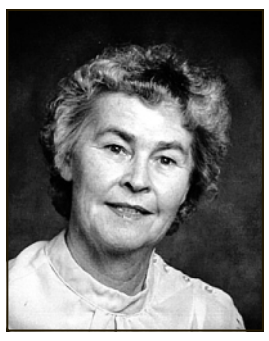
Linda Susan Fath passed away peacefully on April 9, 2019, at her home in Pinehurst, Texas, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born to Patricia Louise Luther and Henry David Luther in Canton, Ohio. She is survived by her husband Stephen Joseph Fath, her two daughters Heather Graham (husband Geoff) and Holly Madden (husband Chris), her two step-children, Amity Fath and Damian Fath, and her seven grandchildren including Preston, Parker, and Pryce Graham, and Austin, Devon, and Alexis Madden, and Suri Anne Fath.

Linda is also survived by her three sisters Jeannie Gistri, Sally Vega, and Beckey Boone, their children, and her father Henry David Luther and stepmother Patricia Luther, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws. Linda attended Saint Joan of Arc Elementary School and Central Catholic High School in Canton, Ohio, and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Akron, Ohio in 1973. As a girl, she joined the local 4H Club and participated in horse shows. In high school, Linda and her horse Racky served as the Crusader football team mascot, and, while dressed in full Crusader regalia and carrying a banner, galloped across the field during halftime. As a young woman, Linda worked with various accounting and photography companies and later married Dale Hamilton, and they were blessed with two daughters. Linda was an active supporter of the communities in which she lived. Along with various church activities, Linda was a member of The Red Hat Society and her local Garden Clubs. On the weekends, she, Holly, and Sally attended festivals and sold Hair Thingies. Later, she obtained her real estate and brokerage license and specialized in large equestrian-property transactions. Linda was an avid scuba diver and became a certified master scuba diver. She also parachuted, water skied, snow skied, ice skated, roller bladed, cycled, hiked, kayaked, fished, rode trail motorcycles and occasionally co-piloted with her father in his airplane. In 2007, Linda met Steve Fath, who was her loving partner to the end of her life. Linda and Steve married in 2008, and together bought a Victorian-style farmhouse in Pinehurst, Texas. They filled their land with organic vegetable and fruit gardens, two horses, cats, dogs, rabbits, hens, roosters, bees, ducks, an alpaca, and goats. Linda Susan Fath is deeply missed by her family and all who knew her and all those whose lives she touched.

MARY ELIZABETH FLANAGAN

1928-2019



Mary Elizabeth Flanagan, born June 27, 1928, in Birmingham, Alabama to Besse and Bernard Sigmier, died on April 11, 2019 in Houston, Texas.

A Rosary will be said at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am, Monday, April 22, 2019 at St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 8825 Kempwood Drive in Houston, Texas.

Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

To read the obituary or to leave a condolence, please visit josephjearthman.com.

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KATHERINE ELIZABETH HEBERT

1924-2019

Katherine Elizabeth Hebert, age 95, of Houston, TX passed away on April 13, 2019. Katherine was born in Orange, TX.

A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at American Heritage Funeral Home. The Funeral Liturgy will commence at 10:30 a.m., after which Katherine will be escorted to Memorial Oaks Cemetery, 13001 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX, where she will be laid to rest.

American Heritage Funeral Home
Dignity Memorial
10710 Veteran's Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77038
(281) 445-0050

Condolences may be offered at
www.AmericanHeritageFuneralHome.com

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HOUSTON★CHRONICLE
chron.com/tributes

MARCUS JACOB JACOBSON

1930-2019

Marcus Jacob Jacobson (Marc) was born on May 2, 1930 in Houston, TX, to Max and Bessie Jacobson and he died on April 12, 2019, in his home in Los Angeles, CA. He passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Marc is survived by his wife, Judith (Judy), his two children, Mitzi (Roger) Schwarz and Barry (Dina) Jacobson, and 8 grandchildren: Isaiah and Zachary Schwarz, and Chayele, Meir, Malky, Shani, Hanni, and Esther (Esty) Jacobson.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 3 PM at Eden Memorial Park, 11500 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills, CA 91345. Shiva Minyan on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, before Passover/Shabbat. For location and other information, please contact Mitzi Schwarz at mitzismusic@gmail.com.

Donations in memory of Marcus Jacobson may be made to Adat Shalom, 3030 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034 (www.adatshalomla.org); Skirball Hospice and Palliative Care, 6345 Balboa Blvd., Suite 315, Encino, CA 91316 (http://www.skirballhospice.org/); Meals on Wheels of West Los Angeles, P.O. Box 241576, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (https://mealsonwheelswla.org/planned-giving/), or any charitable organization of your choice.

GREGORY PAPAYOTI

1928-2019

Gregory Papayoti passed away peacefully in Houston, Texas on Saturday, the 13th of April 2019. He was born in the apartment above his father's grocery store in Istanbul, Turkey and was extremely proud of the fact that he came from the city that literally bridges the East and West.

He graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering from Robert College in Istanbul and an MS in Civil Engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Greg also served as a Captain in the Turkish Army on the Russian border. He spent the majority of his career with Raymond International building a worldwide footprint of successful construction projects that spanned stadium foundations, harbors, power plants, embassies and even a bridge across his beloved Bosphorus straights in Istanbul.

Greg spoke Greek, Turkish, English, Italian, Arabic and French. He was a voracious reader, had deep knowledge of political and religious history and was as he liked to say "A student until the day I die". He travelled for work and pleasure extensively taking the time to truly understand every place and people he visited from London to Bologna, Buenos Aires, Fiji, Machu Picchu, Melbourne, Milan, Mount Athos, Rio, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Lagos, Teheran and many more.

He is preceded in death by his parents Vasilis and Callirrhoe Papayoti, brother Takis Papayoti and sister Sophia Boulmetis. He is survived by his wife of 63 years Aliki Papuci Papayoti, son Lee Papayoti, daughter and son-in-law Clara and Tres Fuge, grandson and wife Evan Fuge and Annika Naidoo, and beloved nephews and nieces Tassos Boulmetis, Basil and Ann Papayoti, Vasilis Boulmetis, Chris and Jilla Papayoti and Maria Papayoti.

Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from five o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening on Wendesday, the 17th of April, in the Jasek chapel of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston, where the Trisagion prayers are to commence at half-past six o'clock.

The funeral service is to be conducted at eleven o'clock in the morning on Thursday, the 18th of April, at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 3511 Yoakum Boulevard in Houston, where the Cathedral clergy are to officiate.

At a later time, the family will gather for a private entombment service at Woodlawn Garden of Memories Cemetery in Houston.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed toward Texas Children's Hospital, Office of Philanthropy, Ste. 5214, P.O. Box 300630, Houston, TX 77230-0630.

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JAMES R MARTIN

1926-2019

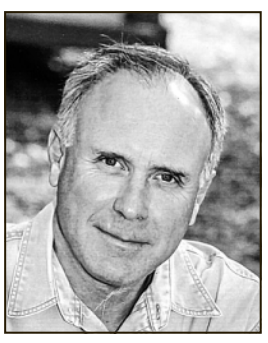
James Martin passed away peacefully at home on April 5 at the age of 92. Jim was born on December 10, 1926, in Davenport Iowa. He loved music and played clarinet in a dance band as a teenager. During WWII, he served in the Army Air Corp. Jim graduated from Univ. of Michigan as an electrical engineer. It was there that he met the love of his life, Lillian (Lee). They were married for 50 years and loved to travel the world. Jim's job took him to Detroit, Cleveland, Springfield and West Palm Beach. He moved to Houston after Lee's death, where he lived for 18 years. Jim lived a full life with a focus on God and family.

He is survived by sons Curt (Claire) and Paul (Bev), and grandchildren Emmie, Andy, Danielle and Stewart.

There will be a memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Holy Spirit Endowment Fund, 12535 Perthshire Rd, Houston, TX 77024.

JOHN T. MALONE

1945-2019



John Thomas Malone, a loving father, husband, and favorite friend, was born in Houston on the 6th of October 1945, and passed away on Wednesday, the 10th of April 2019, at the age 73.

A more detailed and complete notice was published in this past Sunday edition and remains accessible via the internet.

Friends are cordially invited to gather and share remembrances of John with the family from five o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, the 16th of April, in the grand foyer of Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston.

A memorial service is to be conducted at two o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, the 17th of April, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road in Houston. Immediately following, all are invited to greet the family during a reception at a venue to be announced during the service.

At a later date, the family will gather at Glenwood Cemetery, which is situated on property once owned by John's ancestor Archibald Wynns, for a private inurnment.

In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions in honor of John may be directed to Will Erwin Headache Research Foundation 609 Main Street, Ste. 2350 Houston, TX 77002; or to the charity of one's choice.

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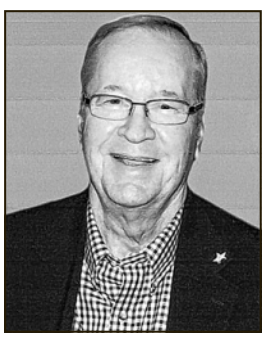
BERNARD WAYNE VOGELSANG

1945-2019



Bernard Wayne Vogelsang, resident of Houston, died peacefully on Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Wayne was born on July 21, 1945 in Houston to Egon Ernest and Norene Becker Vogelsang. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Marie Vogelsang Gorman. He is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years, Patricia Hobizal Vogelsang and his sons; Thomas Wayne Vogelsang, and wife Diana of Houston, Phillip James Vogelsang and wife Page also of Houston, and his grandchildren Matthew Thomas Vogelsang and Michael James Vogelsang, Murphy James Vogelsang and Ella Page Vogelsang. He is also survived by his brothers Francis Vogelsang, wife Yvette of Fredericksburg, Danny Vogelsang, wife Marcena of Tomball, Mickey Vogelsang, wife Sally of San Antonio, Stephen Vogelsang, wife Martha of Bryan, Texas, and his sisters Judy Vogelsang Salvaggio, husband Mike of Marble Falls and Sharon Vogelsang Cotton, husband John of Katy, Texas.

Wayne graduated from St. Thomas High School in 1963 and from University of St. Thomas with a B.A. degree in math in 1967.

Wayne spent his professional career working at NASA's Johnson Space Center. After NASA, he returned to his true love of farm animals that began as a young boy in his city backyard where he raised pigeons, rabbits, and Easter chicks as an enterprise. He enjoyed his retirement years raising cattle at his ranches near Weimar and Fayetteville, Texas.

Wayne was from a family of baseball players. His dad "Slim" played for the Cameron Texas Comets, Wayne played Dixie Little League and Pony League and at St. Thomas High School. His sons and grandsons continued the tradition. He volunteered in the West University Little League as his sons' coach from 1976 to 1985.

Wayne was a parishioner for over fifty years at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

All services will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6800 Buffalo Speedway in Houston. Vigil services are Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 6:00pm for the visitation, with a vigil prayer service at 7:00pm. On Wednesday, April 17, 2019, there will be a visitation at 9:00am with a funeral mass at 10:00am. A reception for family and friends will immediately follow the funeral mass in St. Vincent's Monsignor Jamail Family Center.

In lieu of usual remembrances, the family requests that donations be kindly considered in Wayne's name to St. Thomas High School in Houston, www.sths.org. Or the Star of Hope Mission, www.sohmission.org.

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HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

Dave Rossman / Contributor

The Platform Investment Group's newest project at Bissonnet in Boulevard Oaks is close to completion.

RETAIL

From page B1

room for a new shopping center. Sugar Land-based Cornerbrook Cos. is developing the property at 2715 Bissonnet, and BPI Realty Services is leasing it. A restaurant group, a spa and a medical user have been in negotiations to lease space there, said Cornerbrook's George Kaleh.

Another property, across from the Coca-Cola bottling plant at 2800 Bissonnet, went up for sale last summer and could become one of the area's largest redevelopment projects when it sells. A onetime industrial site dating to 1950, it sits on 15.6 acres.

Little new has been built along the eastern stretch of Bissonnet. A residential tower, the so-called Ashby high-rise, has been proposed at 1717 Bissonnet for years, but neighborhood opposition, among other reasons, has stalled the project.

The Ybarras hope to breathe new life into the corner at Shepherd. The couple formed Platform Investment Group to develop urban sites with an emphasis on design and walkability.

They hired Michael Hsu Office of Architecture to design the building and SWA to landscape the site. Branding firm FÖDA Studio designed a sculptural address marker that was inspired by the historic blue tile signs seen on Houston's oldest street curbs.

"We're both former architects, so we wanted to make design a big focus," Steve Ybarra said on a recent tour of the three-story brick and aluminum building.

The restaurant, in which the couple has a stake, is a collaboration with Houston's David Buehrer, owner of Greenway Coffee. It will serve Latin- and Gulf Coast-inspired items with a specialty cocktail menu.

Westlake Dermatology, a plastic surgery and dermatology group with multiple locations in Austin, will also be a tenant. The practice is expected to open this fall. And the Ybarras plan to move Platform's offices to the 11,500-square-foot building.

The couple, both 35, met in architecture school at Yale and have two other projects in the works. They are renovating a 7,200-square-foot brick building built in the 1940s at the corner of Harrisburg Boulevard and York Street in the East End. The property, just down from the former Maxwell House plant and in front of a rail stop along Metro's Green Line, is slated to become a bar and events space.

They also own a 25,390-square-foot site at 615 West Gray in Montrose.

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Did the Republican tax bill live up to all its promises?

By Heather Long
WASHINGTON POST

Monday was Tax Day, the due date for Americans to file their 2018 taxes. It also marks a milestone: the country has made it through a full year of President Donald Trump's new tax code – and the first tax filing season under the new rules.

Trump and his fellow Republicans promised their bill would cut taxes, make filing simpler and boost wages, business spending and the overall economy. Trump signed the most sweeping overhaul of the U.S. tax code in three decades into law on Dec. 22, 2017, with zero Democratic votes. With year one in the books, it's fair to say some of those promises came true, some did not and some it's still too early to definitely say.

Promise: Your taxes will fit on a postcard. This didn't happen. The main form almost all tax filers fill out – the 1040 – did shrink. But much of the information that used to appear on the 1040 now appears on schedules, meaning a lot of taxpayers simply ended up filling out more pages. Instructions for the main form also grew by 10 pages.

Promise: The middle class will benefit. Yes, the vast majority of Americans – 65 percent – did get a tax cut. Looking specifically at the middle class, the Tax Policy Center predicted 82 percent of middle-class earners (households that make $49,000 to $86,000 a year) would receive a tax cut averaging about $1,050.

The data out so far backs up the estimates. H&R Block said among the millions of tax returns it processed by the end of March, the average tax cut was $1,200. (It's also true not everyone is celebrating. About 9 percent of middle-income families had to pay more and the rest paid about the same in taxes, according to the Tax Policy Center.)

Promise: Your wages will rise. Trump kept claiming the average American would get $4,000 more a year due to the tax bill. That hasn't panned out, although there is some good news on pay.

Some companies gave employees a one-time bonus or raised pay and credited the tax bill, but that impacted only a few million people out of the nearly 157 million employed. The White House is now pointing to the rise in average hourly pay as a sign of success.

For the average worker, wages are growing over 3 percent a year, according to the Labor Department, and they are growing fastest for lower income workers. That's the best nominal (not adjusted for cost of living) gain in about a decade, but it's important to point out that wage gains had been slowly trending up for the past several years.

In 2015, wages rose an average of 2.3 percent. In 2017, it was about 2.6 percent. Economists say the tax bill probably helped push wages above 3 percent, but there was some momentum already.

Promise: The tax cut will "pay for itself." This is not happening. The White House stood almost alone on this vow. Economists and budget experts across the political spectrum predicted the tax bill's $1.5 trillion price tag would have to be funded mostly by debt. The early results indicate that is exactly what is happening.

Despite a strong economy, tax receipts are down. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget predicts the budget deficit this fiscal year will hit almost $900 billion. The tax bill accounts for $230 billion of that deficit – or about a quarter of it, CRFB calculated.

Promise: There will be a "capex" boom. There was a bounce, but it might be short-lived.

"Capex" stands for capital expenditures, a Wall Street term for the investments that businesses make in equipment, technology, new buildings and research. These kinds of investments tend to make workers more productive, which boosts wages and economic growth. The White House argued this is what the tax bill was all about and why it would cause much faster growth for years to come.

Here's what capex looks like in recent quarters, according to the Commerce Department. There's a noticeable jump in the first and second quarters of 2018 just after the tax bill is enacted, but that momentum appears to be fading back to more normal levels.

"I'm not buying the thesis that the tax cuts gave the biggest boost to capex," said Rajeev Dhawan, director of economic forecasting center at Georgia State University. "If tax cuts cause capex boom, then why did it fizzle in the second half of the year?"

TAXES

From page B1

lief," Trump said Monday at an event in Burnsville, Minn. "It's the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history."

The visit to Minnesota, a potential swing state in 2020, is part of a week of events designed to promote the tax law's effects on the economy as Trump turns to his re-election campaign.

The Trump administration and congressional Republicans sold the tax law as fuel for economic growth and deficit reduction. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky gave assurances in December 2017 that the law would not only contain the deficit but be a "revenue producer." Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said last week that the tax cut package had largely already paid for itself, a statement that conflicts with government data.

The U.S. budget shortfall grew by 17 percent to $779 billion in fiscal year 2018, which the Congressional Budget Office has said was partly a consequence of the tax law. Along with additional spending that's been signed into law, the CBO projects the deficit will surpass $1 trillion by 2020.

When the law passed, McConnell said, "If we can't sell this to the American people, we ought to go into another line of work." He added that the GOP merely needed to tell the public "that you have more money in your pocket."

But an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll this month showed that just 17 percent of Americans believe that their taxes have been cut. A Reuters/Ipsos poll last month found that 21 percent thought their taxes were lowered.

That's despite an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center that 2 out of 3 taxpayers would see their taxes go down. The biggest benefits, though, go to the top 1 percent, who are projected to receive an average tax break of $62,000 in 2018, while the middle one-fifth of income earners got an average tax cut of $1,090 – around $20 per biweekly paycheck.

The law appears to have met a similar political fate as President Barack Obama's stimulus package in 2009, in which most Americans received a one-year tax break but the incremental gains in paychecks were so small that most didn't notice.

Eberhart, the Republican donor, said the Trump administration wanted "an immediate reaction," so it reduced the amount the IRS withholds from regular paychecks starting in 2018.

The move backfired. "It was too small an amount for most to notice," he said. Adding to voters' frustration, their tax refunds were smaller than expected, down 1.1 percent overall, but still noticeable to individual households.

White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett on Friday dismissed poor poll results, saying they might be explained by general frustration with the tax system broadly.

Hassett cited other data, such as a Michigan survey of consumer sentiment, that "suggest that you should have a very optimistic outlook for economic growth this year."

The tax law, passed by Republicans without any Democratic support, lowered the corporate rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and cut individual taxes across income brackets for eight years. It doubled the standard deduction and enhanced the child tax credit. And it closed or tightened various tax breaks – most notably by capping the amount of state and local taxes that can be deducted – which had its biggest effect on residents of high-tax, largely Democratic-run states.

Democrats spent their 2018 midterm campaigns hammering the law as a giveaway to wealthy Americans that would widen the deficit and put popular programs such as Social Security and Medicare on shaky ground.

According to exit polls for House races published on Election Day 2018 by CNN, 29 percent said the new tax law helped their finances; that group overwhelmingly supported Republican candidates. But 45 percent said the law had no effect, and 22 percent said it hurt their finances, and those categories overwhelmingly backed Democratic candidates.

Ryan Ellis, a conservative tax lobbyist, blamed negative news coverage for the unpopularity of the tax law. "People don't know about their own taxes," he said, adding that they "get half-baked ideas" from the way the law is portrayed.

Republicans didn't understand what the broader public wanted from a tax bill, said Morris Pearl, a former managing director at BlackRock who now chairs Patriotic Millionaires, a group of wealthy individuals who advocate for higher taxes on the rich.

"They forgot that the people who show up at their $1,000-a-plate fundraisers are not representative of all people," Pearl said. "They overreached with their tax bill and tilted the system in the favor of the very wealthy and large corporations."

The tax effort stemmed from a bipartisan desire to move the corporate tax system in line with those of foreign competitors. Both parties supported lowering the country's 35 percent corporate rate, though Democrats favored a more modest reduction.

Republicans realized that corporate tax cuts were a hard sell to the general public. So they reduced taxes for pass-through businesses – partnerships and limited liability companies – and individuals, eliminated some existing tax breaks to offset the rate reductions and included a more generous child tax credit.

But because of earlier unpopular proposals such as one to cut deductions for medical expenses, college tuition and child-adoption costs, public opinion had already soured.

In many Democratic strongholds, such as New Jersey, New York and the District of Columbia, the average refund amount decreased, according to H&R Block, fueling discontent with the law, though residents in those states got a tax cut on average. Worse, the state and local tax, or SALT, cap really stung. Residents of high-tax states, encouraged by the elected Democratic officials, came to believe they were targeted to pay for the $1.5 trillion tax cut, even if they weren't able to personally use the deduction.

"It is clear that they consciously exacted revenge on Democratic states like New York, California, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Illinois by capping the SALT deduction, which is bad news for residents in those states," said Rep. Tom Suozzi, D-N.Y.

LIFE TRIBUTES

GERALD WAYNE "JB" MITCHELL

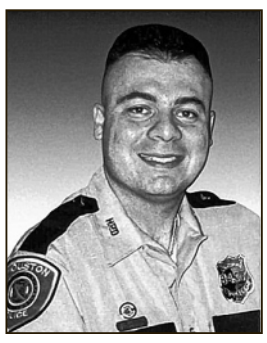
1956-2019

It is with great sadness that the family of Gerald Wayne "JB" Mitchell announces his passing, on 4/6/19. Survived by siblings, Carolyn Shelton, Barbara Cosey, Michael Mitchell, Frederick Mitchell, Cheryl Miller and Angela Mitchell Mackey; his godson, Jordan Mackey. Services will be held 4/17/19 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 4600 Reed Rd. Paradise South Cemetery.

In Loving Memory Of

HPD ALBERTO VASQUEZ

1969-2001



4/16/69 - 5/22/01
Happy 50th Heavenly Birthday, Sweetie!!

Missing you and thinking of you always.
T.A.

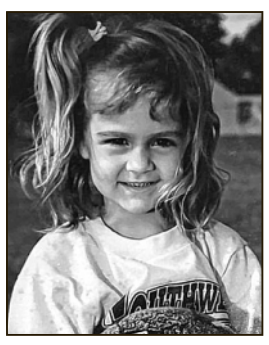
Parent's, Sister, Patty, Beto, Andy, Family & Friends.

In Loving Memory Of

CHELSEA IRENE ZWIREK

1989-2011

Born 9/12/89
Passed 4/16-2011



Chelsea, you were my best friend, my ally, and my most precious treasure. I miss you dearly. I found this poem. I sit here trying to understand why the time came and you used your wings to fly. I know the the circle of life includes a move. It seems the move came so very soon. O sweet Butterfly wrapped in pretty paints. Did you get a call to go with the Saints? O lovely butterfly with wings of flight. I wish I could see you this night. O restored Butterfly no matter how I try. I can't stop thinking and I have to cry. But you know I love to see you fly. Yes. Yes. Yes. You are a restored butterfly. .. Always missed and loved forever and ever. Mom, Pops, Seth, Ben, Bella and Red. Kisses to the moon and back.

The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need. HE lets me rest in fields of green. HE leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. HE gives me new strength. HE guides me in the right paths as HE's promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me.

CEMETERY LOTS

South Park Cemetery, Pearland. 2 side by side, Heart level Mausoleum Companion Crypts w/bronze memorial plaque, Weather is never a factor, when the services are held or when loved ones visit. $11,500. Yolanda 713-478-8867

LIPMAN

From page B1

your former lawyer to send you a check.

But if no money is forthcoming, or if your attorney returns less than you think you are owed, or worse, if your lawyer refuses to respond to your email, your next step is to call the State Bar's Client Attorney Assistance Program at 800-932-1900. They will help you figure out the best course of action, as a number of different options are available.

They might recommend that you utilize your local bar association's fee dispute services. (Not all local bar associations have this service.) The Houston Bar Association offers a service where attorneys and non-attorneys sit on panels and arbitrate disputes between lawyers and their clients. More information about the Houston Bar Association's program can be found at www.hba.org. Click on "Need Legal Assistance" and then on "Fee Dispute."

Note though, the fee dispute process is entirely voluntary. Your attorney is not required to participate in any of the discussions.

Ultimately, if all of your efforts fail, and especially if your attempts at communication go unanswered, the last option to consider is filing a grievance against your attorney with the State Bar of Texas. You can file a grievance online at www.texasbar.com. You don't need a lawyer to file a grievance. A grievance will not work to resolve a fee dispute, but if the filing of your grievance is justified, it will certainly get your attorney's attention.

Be sure to review the fee agreement you signed when you hired the attorney as it may contain provisions regarding the method of resolving a fee dispute.

The information in this column is intended to provide a general understanding of the law, not legal advice. Readers with legal problems, including those whose questions are addressed here, should consult attorneys for advice on their particular circumstances. Ronald Lipman of the Houston law firm Lipman & Associates is board-certified in estate planning and probate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Email questions to stateyourcase@lipmanpc.com.

WEATHER

HOUSTON'S SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
80 / 66	79 / 66	77 / 54	75 / 51	82 / 61	83 / 66	82 / 68
Breezy with variable cloudiness	Mostly cloudy, breezy and humid	A morning t-storm; clouds and sun	Sunny, breezy and pleasant	Sunny and warmer	Partly sunny; breezy in the p.m.	Clouds and sunshine

METRO AREA OUTLOOK

TODAY: Breezy with variable cloudiness. High 77 to 82. Winds south-southeast 10-20 mph. **TONIGHT:** Becoming cloudy. Low 63 to 68. Winds south-southeast 8-16 mph.

AIR QUALITY

Today's forecast for the entire metro area by the TCEQ:

Ozone watch

- Good
- Moderate
- Unhealthy for sensitive groups
- Unhealthy
- Very unhealthy
- Hazardous

POLLEN AND MOLD

Yesterday's readings by the Houston Health Department:

	Count per cubic meter of air	
Tree pollen	Heavy	239
Weed pollen	Medium	20
Grass pollen	Heavy	76
Mold spores	Low	5801

- Low
- Medium
- Heavy
- Extremely heavy

Note: No measurements on weekends; charts in Sunday and Monday papers reflect forecast ratings from the previous Friday.

COMFORT INDEX

The comfort index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

Today	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
9	9	10	10	7	9

UV TODAY

Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet Rays.

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
1	2	9	9	2	0

- 0-2, Low
- 3-5, Moderate
- 6-7, High
- 8-10, Very high
- 11+, Extreme

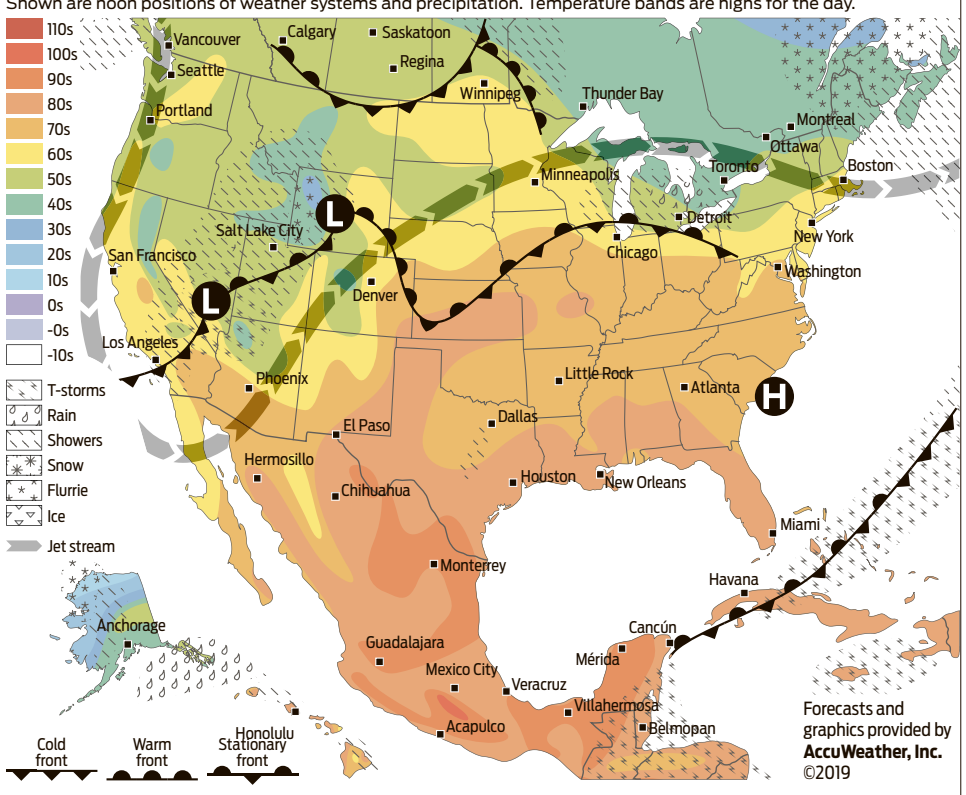
SUN AND MOON

Full moon	Last quarter	New moon	First quarter
Apr 19	Apr 26	May 4	May 11

Sunset tonight	7:49 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday	6:53 a.m.
Moonrise today	5:04 p.m.
Moonset today	5:16 a.m.

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2019

FOR THE RECORD

George Bush Intercontinental Airport through 3 p.m. yest.

Temperature	Degrees F
High	79
Low	48
Normal high	80
Normal low	59
Record high	90 in 1944
Record low	38 in 1928
Precipitation	**Inches**
24 hours through 3 p.m. yest.	0.00
Month to date	1.73
Normal month to date	1.52
Year to date	8.04
Normal year to date	11.51
Other readings	
Top wind speed	16 mph
High barometer	30.14 in.
Low barometer	30.02 in.
High dewpoint	56°
Low dewpoint	46°
Average dewpoint	50°
High humidity	89%
Low humidity	39%

KEY TO CONDITIONS

s-sunny	r-rain
pc-partly cloudy	sf-snow flurries
c-cloudy	sn-snow
sh-showers	i-ice
t-thunderstorms	

TEXAS

	Today	Wed.
Abilene	77/62/c	82/53/pc
Amarillo	84/50/pc	73/42/t
Austin	80/66/c	82/60/t
Beaumont	78/65/pc	78/67/c
Brownsville	85/73/c	89/70/pc
Bryan/College St.	79/67/c	78/61/t
Corpus Christi	83/71/c	84/66/pc
Dallas/Ft. Worth	76/64/c	77/58/t
El Paso	82/59/s	71/53/t
Galveston	76/69/c	78/68/c
Kingsville	84/73/c	87/65/pc
Laredo	90/71/c	95/66/pc
Longview	80/61/pc	75/59/c
Lubbock	82/54/pc	75/47/pc
McAllen	88/73/pc	94/70/pc
Midland/Odessa	85/60/pc	79/52/pc
San Angelo	78/61/pc	83/54/pc
San Antonio	79/66/c	84/58/t
Texarkana	77/61/pc	71/62/t
Victoria	81/69/c	81/66/pc
Waco	75/65/c	77/58/t

NATIONAL

	Today	Wed.
Albany, NY	58/37/pc	62/41/s
Albuquerque	71/45/pc	59/42/t
Anchorage	47/36/s	43/33/sh
Atlanta	75/55/s	80/61/s
Baltimore	69/51/s	64/49/c
Billings	56/40/sh	59/42/pc
Birmingham	79/53/s	81/60/s
Boise	59/41/c	62/43/pc
Boston	61/42/s	57/42/s
Buffalo	46/35/r	59/48/pc
Charleston, SC	73/52/s	80/62/s
Charlotte	71/52/s	80/59/s
Chicago	66/47/c	68/58/t
Cincinnati	76/54/s	76/58/pc

NATIONAL cont.

	Today	Wed.
Cleveland	63/49/c	66/58/c
Columbus	72/55/pc	75/57/pc
Denver	68/40/c	56/37/sh
Des Moines	72/58/c	71/45/r
Detroit	61/44/r	57/50/r
Duluth	58/37/pc	45/38/r
Fairbanks	53/27/pc	45/28/pc
Great Falls	50/34/sh	56/37/pc
Hartford	61/39/pc	64/41/s
Honolulu	86/71/s	86/71/s
Indianapolis	73/55/pc	74/57/pc
Jackson, MS	80/55/s	79/64/pc
Juneau	49/37/r	48/38/r
Kansas City	76/60/c	76/46/t
Las Vegas	68/55/t	78/61/s
Little Rock	78/59/pc	74/62/c
Los Angeles	65/52/pc	74/54/s
Memphis	76/59/s	76/62/pc
Miami	83/70/s	82/75/pc
Milwaukee	59/41/sh	55/52/r
Minneapolis	62/44/pc	51/39/r
Nashville	78/55/s	80/62/pc
New Orleans	80/64/s	82/69/pc
New York City	65/48/pc	64/49/pc
Oklahoma City	73/63/c	76/51/t
Orlando	85/63/s	85/66/s
Philadelphia	65/50/pc	63/49/pc
Phoenix	77/56/t	79/62/s
Pittsburgh	64/54/c	70/55/c
Portland, OR	60/49/c	64/50/pc
Sacramento	68/46/pc	76/51/s
St. Louis	80/60/pc	79/61/pc
Salt Lake City	51/40/sh	57/41/pc
San Diego	66/56/sh	71/57/s
San Francisco	63/48/pc	66/49/s
Santa Fe	68/38/pc	54/32/t
Seattle	58/48/sh	60/51/pc
Tucson	80/52/pc	73/52/s
Washington, DC	70/55/s	68/55/c

INTERNATIONAL

	Today	Wed.
Africa		
Cairo	78/57/s	74/55/pc
Cape Town	67/53/pc	71/50/pc
Casablanca	76/58/c	71/58/pc
Dakar	76/65/s	75/67/c
Johannesburg	72/47/t	76/52/s
Lagos	91/79/pc	91/78/t
Asia/Pacific		
Beijing	81/52/pc	84/61/pc
Ho Chi Minh City	95/82/t	93/82/t
Hong Kong	79/72/sh	82/76/pc
Islamabad	75/63/r	70/61/t
Jakarta	90/79/sh	91/77/t
Karachi	89/72/s	91/73/s
Kuala Lumpur	91/77/t	91/78/t
Manila	95/82/s	95/82/pc
New Delhi	89/66/t	78/66/t
Seoul	67/44/pc	69/48/pc
Shanghai	65/56/c	81/61/s
Singapore	91/79/pc	91/79/t
Sydney	74/61/pc	75/61/sh
Taipei	74/66/r	81/70/pc
Tokyo	65/55/s	65/57/pc
Canada		
Calgary	53/34/pc	58/36/s
Edmonton	54/31/pc	57/35/s
Montreal	48/29/pc	55/35/s
Toronto	47/32/r	52/41/pc
Vancouver	55/44/r	56/47/r
Winnipeg	60/38/s	55/34/c
Europe		
Amsterdam	63/49/c	62/48/pc
Athens	65/51/t	65/50/pc
Berlin	57/36/s	61/42/s
Copenhagen	50/36/pc	55/40/s
Dublin	52/40/r	54/46/pc
Frankfurt	64/48/pc	64/46/pc
Geneva	55/45/sh	68/45/pc
Istanbul	56/44/s	58/46/s
London	58/42/c	63/48/pc
Madrid	73/50/pc	79/49/pc
Moscow	51/31/s	48/32/pc
Paris	56/43/r	66/50/pc
Prague	58/33/s	59/39/s
Rome	65/47/pc	66/47/pc
Stockholm	53/31/pc	56/32/s
Vienna	60/37/s	60/41/s
Warsaw	55/38/r	63/40/s
Zurich	58/44/pc	63/41/sh
Latin America		
Bogota	67/50/r	66/52/r
Buenos Aires	74/58/s	77/58/pc
Caracas	83/75/t	83/74/pc
Havana	88/69/pc	89/70/pc
Kingston	86/74/sh	86/75/pc
Lima	76/68/s	76/68/c
Rio de Janeiro	85/72/pc	83/74/t
San Juan	86/74/s	86/74/s
San Salvador	91/71/pc	89/71/pc
Santiago	81/50/s	82/51/s
Sao Paulo	77/64/t	74/61/pc
St. Thomas	86/76/s	85/76/s
Mexico		
Acapulco	88/74/s	87/73/s
Cancun	86/74/s	87/76/pc
Guadalajara	90/51/s	91/53/s
Guanajuato	87/50/s	88/50/s
Mazatlan	79/62/pc	80/63/s
Merida	98/72/s	100/75/s
Mexico City	84/54/s	85/54/s
Puerto Vallarta	79/64/s	82/63/s
Tampico	83/71/pc	87/72/pc
Veracruz	88/71/pc	91/75/pc
Middle East		
Baghdad	87/65/pc	78/58/s
Beirut	65/57/t	65/58/r
Dubai	86/67/s	90/75/s
Jerusalem	60/47/t	59/46/pc
Kabul	56/48/r	60/45/r
Mecca	103/78/s	101/75/pc
Riyadh	94/72/pc	97/74/pc
Tehran	75/55/pc	76/55/t
Tel Aviv	67/57/pc	66/57/pc

COASTAL FORECAST

GALVESTON BAY: Wind southeast at 8-16 knots today. Seas 4-7 feet. Visibility clear. Wind south-southeast 8-16 knots tonight. Seas 3-6 feet. Low clouds. **Tonight:** Wind from the south-southeast at 8-16 knots. Seas 3-6 feet. Low clouds.

MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNEL TO HIGH ISLAND OUT 20 TO 50 MILES: Wind southeast at 8-16 knots today. Seas 4-8 feet. Visibility clear. Wind southeast 8-16 knots tonight. Seas 4-8 feet. Mostly cloudy. **Tonight:** Wind from the southeast at 8-16 knots. Seas 4-8 feet. Mostly cloudy.

GALVESTON TIDES

Highs	Feet	Lows	Feet
1:42 a.m.	1.4	8:40 a.m.	0.3
3:31 p.m.	1.4	9:09 p.m.	0.8

RIVERS, CREEKS AND BAYOUS

	Location	Flood stage	Latest stage	24-hr. chg.
Brays Bayou	South Main	54	16.77	-0.47
Brazos River	Bryan	43	19.00	+3.59
	Hempstead	50	23.74	+0.26
	Richmond	48	21.50	-0.83
Buffalo Bayou	Piney Point	50	48.01	-0.01
	Shepherd Dr.	23	1.15	-2.11
Clear Creek	Friendswood	12	0.42	-2.39
Colorado R.	Austin	29	12.45	none
	Bastrop	25	4.56	+1.00
	La Grange	32	5.24	+0.37
	Columbus	34	11.49	-0.43
	Wharton	39	11.77	-0.20
	Bay City	44	6.63	-0.69
Greens Bayou	Eastex Fwy.	61	39.14	-0.92
Guadalupe R.	Hunt	12	7.89	-0.01
	Comfort	26	3.54	-0.03
	Spring Branch	36	2.91	-0.03
	New Braunfels	13	9.82	-0.03
	Gonzales	31	12.60	-0.20
	Cuero	20	9.32	+0.02
	Victoria	21	7.64	-0.26
	Dupont	20	13.62	-0.53
Little River	Little River	30	3.97	-0.80
	Cameron	30	11.23	-0.93
Navasota R.	Easterly	19	16.82	+2.86
Neches River	Evadale	19	14.83	-0.42
Pine Island B.	Sour Lake	25	13.81	-0.05
Sabine River	Bon Wier	30	26.59	+1.34
	Deweyville	24	24.18	-0.06
	Orange	4	1.08	-1.68
	Burkeville	43	26.25	+0.97
San Bernard R.	E. Bernard	17	6.71	-0.12
E. San. Jac. R.	Cleveland	19	5.06	-0.20
W. San. Jac. R.	Conroe	116	95.57	-0.04
San Jacinto R.	Sheldon	10	0.91	-2.08
Sims Bayou	Telephone Rd.	30	0.81	-2.15
Trinity River	Goodrich	36	19.83	-0.37
	Liberty	26	22.73	+0.31
Village Creek	Kountze	20	7.17	-0.85
White Oak B.	Heights Blvd.	48	8.23	-1.48

TEXAS LAKES

	Full pool	Latest level	Release cfs
Canyon Dam	909	909.00	244
Conroe	201	200.67	0
Houston	41.73	41.70	N.A.
Lake Travis	681	680.81	2390
Livingston	131	131.36	N.A.

SPORTS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE • TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 • SECTION C ★★

ASTROS

Cubans long for company

Gurriel, Diaz hope blocking of deal with MLB doesn't end flow of countrymen coming to U.S.

By Chandler Rome
STAFF WRITER

SEATTLE – Banter began early Sunday morning inside the Astros' clubhouse at T-Mobile Park. George Springer supplied soft jazz from a Spotify playlist that is now a getaway-day staple.

The Masters played on a large television, and to its immediate left, Aledmys Diaz and Yuli Gurriel sparred in Spanish. The two Cubans alternated cackling laughs with occasional updates on the golf tournament.

The infielders are inseparable. When general manager Jeff Luhnow considered acquiring Diaz from Toronto during the offseason, he sought Gurriel's recommendation before consummating the deal and reuniting the countrymen, who had played together in their native land.

Now, Gurriel doubles as Diaz's liaison, aiding the utility man with his indoctrination into the Astros' clubhouse. Diaz is with his third major league team since defecting from Cuba in 2012.

"It's unbelievable," Diaz said.

Astros continues on C3

Astros update

Sunday: Astros 3, Mariners 2.
Record: 11-5.
Today: At Oakland, 9:07 p.m.
Starting pitchers: Collin McHugh (2-1) vs. Marco Estrada (0-1).
TV/radio: ATTSW; 790 AM, 740 AM, 850 AM (Spanish), 101.7 FM (Spanish).

Karen Warren / Staff photographer

Jon Shapley / Staff photographer

Cuban natives Yuli Gurriel, left, and Aledmys Diaz made their major league debuts in 2016 and became teammates this season.

ROCKETS

So close and so far away

Karen Warren / Staff photographer

Open shots were rare for the Jazz in Game 1 , including forward Georges Niang's bid against guard Gerald Green.

Tight defense that has become norm fuels blowout

JONATHAN FEIGEN
On the Rockets

Jazz star Donovan Mitchell was not angry at the shot clock. It was not the clock's fault that when he received the ball nearly 40 feet from the basket, the clock offered him only a few final ticks to get off a shot with the Rockets' lead having reached 17 barely two minutes into the fourth quarter.

When Mitchell's heave smacked into the same clock that P.J. Tucker had playfully used to send a pregame alley-oop to James Harden, the clock had gone from a supporting role in a happy slam to a featured, if symbolic, part in the Rockets' Game 1 takedown of the Jazz on Sunday

The Rockets would not, however, treat their defensive success as special, much less anything out of the ordinary.

It led to them matching the second-largest postseason blowout in franchise history. It held the Jazz to 39 percent shooting with 19 turnovers. It never allowed the Jazz to retake the lead after the Rockets went in front to stay five minutes into the game. But it was not more than they expected.

"We've been doing that for a while now," coach Mike D'Antoni said, almost sounding defensive about the Rockets' defense. "I don't think it's particularly against them. I just think for the last two months since everybody got healthy, locked in, had the

Rockets continues on C4

JENNY DIAL CREECH
Commentary

If Jazz are downbeat, they're not showing it

Utah players spent a good chunk of Monday watching film from the night before. After being blown out by the Rockets in Game 1 on Sunday night, there was plenty for the Jazz to look at.

Nothing they did in Sunday's 122-90 loss worked. From an ineffective defensive plan that forced James Harden to his right side to what appeared to be a lack of understanding of the Rockets' defensive switches, Utah looked outmatched from the start.

They were left with two days to sit on the loss before getting the chance to avenge it. If the Jazz can't figure something out in that time and put together a better performance than the one that left them on the wrong side of a 32-point game, this is going to be a very short series.

"There are a lot of things we have to do better," Utah's Derrick Favors said after a Monday film session at the team hotel. "We definitely have to adjust."

Creech continues on C4

Rockets vs. Jazz

Rockets lead series 1-0
GAME 2
When/where: 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; Toyota Center
TV/radio: ATTSW, TNT; 740 AM, 850 AM (Spanish)

GOLF

Can Tiger reach major record? 18 is 'closer than people think'

By Karen Crouse
NEW YORK TIMES

AUGUSTA, Ga. – Jack Nicklaus was fishing in the Bahamas on Sunday as Tiger Woods resumed circling him in the quest for Nicklaus' record of 18 major golf championships. But in his news conference after winning the Masters for his 15th major title, Woods didn't sound exactly bloodthirsty.

"I'm sure that I'll probably think of it going down the road," Woods said, referring to Nicklaus' 18 victories at golf's four major tournaments. "Maybe. Maybe not. But right now, it's a little soon, and I'm just enjoying 15."

Then again, Woods – who will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his achievement, according to a tweet from President Donald Trump on Monday – didn't have to say much. His clubs had delivered a convincing argument that he is "trending in the right direction," as Woods is fond of saying. Tony Finau, who was grouped with Woods in the final round, was more succinct.

"From what I saw today," Finau said Sunday, "obviously he's not going anywhere."

Brooks Koepka, who has won three majors since 2017, felt confident going out on this limb: "I think 18 is a whole lot closer than people think."

How about three-months-off close?

What Woods put into play Sunday was the elusive calendar Grand Slam – winning all four majors in the same year. No player in the modern era has done it. In golf's storied history, only one

Tiger continues on C5

Kevin C. Cox / Getty Images

Tiger Woods celebrates earning his fifth Masters trophy — and green jacket — after his victory Sunday.

PRO BASEBALL

MLB AT A GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Seattle	13	5	.722	—	6-4	L-3	5-4	8-1
Houston	11	5	.688	1	9-1	W-9	6-0	5-5
Texas	8	7	.533	3½	5-5	W-2	6-3	2-4
Oakland	10	9	.526	3½	5-5	L-1	6-4	4-5
Los Angeles	8	8	.500	4	7-3	L-1	6-1	2-7
East Division								
Tampa Bay	12	4	.750	—	7-3	W-1	5-2	7-2
Baltimore	7	10	.412	5½	3-7	W-1	1-6	6-4
New York	6	9	.400	5½	4-6	L-1	3-6	3-3
Boston	6	11	.353	6½	4-6	L-1	3-3	3-8
Toronto	6	11	.353	6½	3-7	W-1	4-6	2-5
Central Division								
Minnesota	8	5	.615	—	6-4	L-1	4-2	4-3
Cleveland	8	7	.533	1	6-4	L-3	5-1	3-6
Detroit	8	7	.533	1	6-4	L-3	4-2	4-5
Chicago	6	9	.400	3	4-6	W-2	2-5	4-4
Kansas City	5	11	.313	4½	3-7	L-1	5-7	0-4

Results/schedule

Sunday's results
Boston 4, Baltimore 0
Chicago White Sox 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
Tampa Bay 8, Toronto 4
Minnesota 6, Detroit 4
Kansas City 9, Cleveland 8
Texas 8, Oakland 7
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, ppd.
Houston 3, Seattle 2

Monday's results
Baltimore 8, Boston 1
Toronto 5, Minnesota 3
Chi. White Sox 5, Kansas City 4
Texas 12, L.A. Angels 7
Cleveland at Seattle, late

Today's games
Boston (Sale 0-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Paxton 1-2), 5:35 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Musgrove 1-1) at Detroit (Boyd 1-1), 5:40 p.m.
Baltimore (Bundy 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Glasnow 3-0), 6:10 p.m.
Toronto (Sanchez 1-1) at Minnesota (Gibson 0-0), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Harvey 0-1) at Texas (Minor 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Lopez 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 0-2), 7:10 p.m.
Houston (McHugh 2-1) at Oakland (Montas 2-1), 9:07 p.m.
Cleveland (Bieber 1-0) at Seattle (Leake 2-0), 9:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away
San Diego	11	7	.611	—	6-4	L-2	4-4	7-3
Los Angeles	10	8	.556	1	4-6	W-2	7-4	3-4
Arizona	7	9	.438	3	4-6	W-1	4-5	3-4
San Francisco	7	10	.412	3½	5-5	L-1	5-5	2-5
Colorado	5	12	.294	5½	2-8	W-2	0-5	5-7
East Division								
New York	10	6	.625	—	5-5	W-1	2-3	8-3
Atlanta	9	6	.600	½	7-3	W-2	7-3	2-3
Philadelphia	9	6	.600	½	5-5	L-1	6-4	3-2
Washington	7	7	.500	2	6-4	L-1	3-5	4-2
Miami	4	13	.235	6½	2-8	L-2	3-8	1-5
Central Division								
Milwaukee	11	6	.647	—	5-5	W-1	6-2	5-4
Pittsburgh	8	6	.571	1½	7-3	W-1	4-2	4-4
St. Louis	9	7	.563	1½	6-4	L-1	5-2	4-5
Chicago	6	9	.400	4	5-5	W-1	3-2	3-7
Cincinnati	5	10	.333	5	4-6	L-2	5-5	0-5

Results/schedule

Sunday's results
Philadelphia 3, Miami 1 (14)
Pittsburgh 4, Washington 3
Colorado 4, San Francisco 0
Arizona 8, San Diego 4
L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 1
St. Louis 9, Cincinnati 5
Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 3
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, ppd.

Monday's results
Chicago Cubs 7, Miami 2
Milwaukee 10, St. Louis 7
N.Y. Mets 7, Philadelphia 6 (11)
Colorado 5, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 4, Cincinnati 3

Today's games
Pittsburgh (Musgrove 1-1) at Detroit (Boyd 1-1), 5:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Matz 1-0) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 1-1), 6:05 p.m.
San Francisco (Rodriguez 1-2) at Washington (Strasburg 1-0), 6:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 1-1) at Miami (Lopez 1-2), 6:10 p.m.
Arizona (Ray 0-1) at Atlanta (Fried 2-0), 6:20 p.m.
St. Louis (Flaherty 1-0) at Milwaukee (Woodruff 1-1), 6:40 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 0-3) at San Diego (Margevicius 1-1), 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Mahle 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 2-1), 9:10 p.m.

JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

MLB pays tribute to pioneer

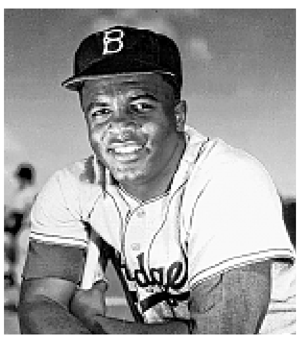
By Beth Harris
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Vin Scully joined the widow of Jackie Robinson to honor the player who broke baseball's color barrier during Robinson's centennial birthday celebration Monday night.

Scully greeted 96-year-old Rachel Robinson with a kiss after being introduced to the crowd, with Scully drawing the loudest cheers in a rare public appearance.

Scully stood behind Rachel with his hands holding her arms during the national anthem at Dodger Stadium. They were joined by Robinson's daughter, Sharon, and son, David, who linked arms with their mother as they walked on the field.

Robinson became the first black player in Major League Baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947. Scully began calling the team's games three years later, and the now-retired Hall of Fame announcer was friendly off the field with the man he called "Jack."


Associated Press file

Maddie Meyer / Getty Images

Every major league wore No. 42 on Monday in honor of Jackie Robinson, the first black player in MLB.

Only 7.7 percent of current MLB players are black, according to MLB.

"If not for Jackie Robinson, I probably wouldn't be here today playing baseball in the United States," said Cincinnati Reds outfielder Yasiel Puig, who came from Cuba to chase his pro aspirations. "That's the reason we respect this day."

Robinson, who died at age 53 in 1972, would have turned 100 on Jan. 31.

His No. 42 was worn by every major leaguer Monday. The number was retired around the league in 1997.

"For me, it's a big opportunity and responsibility that I hold very dear to my heart," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "To put this uniform on today and wear that number today, 42, it's always special."

In Minnesota, Toronto Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo started his pregame media session at 3:42 p.m. CDT in honor of Robinson.

"That's probably one of the people in baseball I wish I would've met," he said.

At Dodger Stadium, the pregame ceremonies included 42 current and former Jackie Robinson Foundation scholars. Students from Cleveland Elementary, Washington Middle School and John Muir High — all attended by Robinson while growing up in nearby Pasadena, Calif. — were on hand.

Robinson's No. 42 was cut into the center field grass.

Sharon Robinson works as MLB's education programming consultant.

The Dodgers hosted an invitation-only 100th birthday celebration in the Stadium Club featuring a sneak preview of the Jackie Robinson Museum, set to open in December in New York City.

Major league players made a $100,000 grant to the Jackie Robinson Foundation in honor of his 100th birthday. It helps fund the college scholarship program run by the foundation, which was founded by Rachel Robinson.

MLB

Yelich's 3 HRs lift Brewers to win

MILWAUKEE — Christian Yelich hit three homers, including a pair of three-run shots, and drove in a career-high seven runs to power the Milwaukee Brewers past the St. Louis Cardinals 10-7 on Monday night.

Yelich, the reigning NL MVP, hit his first three-run homer to cap a six-run second inning. After St. Louis tied it with three runs in the sixth, Yelich answered in the bottom half with a towering three-run blast to right off Mike Mayers (0-1).

Yelich capped off his night with his eighth homer this season, going deep to lead off the eighth. He also lined out in the first and was walked intentionally in the fourth.

CUBS 7, MARLINS 2: Willson Contreras hit his sixth homer, drove in three and reached base four times as Chicago won at Miami.

METS 7, PHILLIES 6: Juan Lagares scored from second base on Michael Conforto's hard grounder in the 11th inning, and New York won at Philadelphia.

ROCKIES 5, PADRES 2: Ian Desmond homered, doubled and drove in three, and Nolan Arenado also homered to back Antonio Senzatela in his season debut and lead Colorado to a victory at San Diego.

RANGERS 12, ANGELS 7: Joey Gallo homered and grounded a tiebreaking single to the vacant spot at shortstop against the shift, helping host Texas beat Los Angeles in Mike Trout's return after the Angels star missed three games with a groin injury.

DODGERS 4, REDS 3: Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth, giving host Los Angeles a comeback victory over Cincinnati in Clayton Kershaw's season debut.

ORIOLES 8, RED SOX 1: Dwight Smith Jr. hooked a two-run homer into the first row of seats down the right-field line and drove in four runs, leading Baltimore past Boston in the Red Sox's annual Patriots' Day game at Fenway Park.

BLUE JAYS 5, TWINS 3: Teoscar Hernandez hit the go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth inning, giving Toronto a badly needed offensive boost with three hits in a victory at Minnesota.

WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 4: Welington Castillo atoned for an error with a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Chicago rallied to beat visiting Kansas City.

ODDS AND ENDS: Dodgers slugger Cody Bellinger was drilled on the right kneecap by a pitch in the third inning Monday night against the Reds, forcing him out of the game. Cincinnati's Luis Castillo uncorked a 95 mph fastball that struck Bellinger and knocked him down. Bellinger leads the NL with nine homers, 22 runs, 22 RBIs and a .424 batting average. ... Phillies reliever David Robertson was placed on the 10-day injured list because of a sore right elbow. Manager Gabe Kapler said Robertson will have an MRI exam on Tuesday. ... Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor has been sent to Triple-A to begin a rehab assignment as the All-Star is moving closer to rejoining the big league club after being slowed by a left ankle injury.

From wire reports

BOX SCORES

Orioles 8, Red Sox 1

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Villar 2b	3	2	1	1	2	1	.300
Mancini rf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.343
Rickard rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.175
Smith Jr. lf	5	1	2	4	0	1	.270
Ruiz 3b	4	1	0	0	1	1	.200
Nunez dh	5	1	3	1	0	2	.293
Davis 1b	3	1	1	2	1	2	.089
Sucre c	3	0	1	0	1	1	.195
Martin ss	2	1	0	0	2	0	.158
Mullins cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.111
Totals	**34**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**7**	**9**	
Boston	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Pedroia dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.105
Betts cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.222
Moreland 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Martinez rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.344
Bogaerts ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.304
Devers 3b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.254
Pearce lf	3	0	0	1	0	2	.125
Swihart c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Vazquez 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.195
Totals	**29**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**4**	

Baltimore	010	030	022	— 8 10 0
Boston	000	010	000	— 1 4 1

LOB—Baltimore 6, Boston 4.
2B—Mancini (6), Smith Jr. (4), Nunez (2), Martinez (5).
HR—Smith Jr. (3), off Walden; Davis (1), off Hembree.
RBIs—Villar (9), Smith Jr. 4 (10), Nunez (10), Davis 2 (8), Pearce (1).
SB—Villar (3).
Runners left in scoring position—Baltimore 4 (Villar 2, Nunez, Mullins); Boston 1 (Pearce).
RISP—Baltimore 5 for 11; Boston 0 for 4.
Runners moved up—Mullins, Ruiz.
LIDP—Martin.
GIDP—Smith Jr. 2, Pedroia, Moreland.
DP—Baltimore 2 (Martin, Villar, Davis), (Villar, Martin, Davis); Boston 3 (Vazquez, Bogaerts, Moreland), (Bogaerts, Moreland), (Moreland, Pearce).

Baltimore	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Straily W, 1-1	5	2	1	1	1	2	86	10.24
Yacabonis H, 2	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	13	3.27
Fry H, 2	⅔	0	0	0	1	1	14	3.24
Phillips	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.00
Castro	1	1	0	0	1	0	12	9.35
Boston	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Velazquez L, 0-1	3	2	1	1	4	1	57	2.84
Walden	2	2	3	3	1	5	41	3.38
Brewer	1	2	0	0	0	1	16	6.75
Workman	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	0.00
Hembree	1	2	2	2	1	0	21	5.00
Thornburg	1	2	2	2	1	1	25	6.48

Inherited runners-scored—Fry 1-0, Phillips 1-0. **WP**—Velazquez.
Umpires—Home, Stu Scheurwater; First, Mark Wegner; Second, Jim Reynolds; Third, Ben May.
T—3:17. **A**—35,860 (37,731).

Cubs 7, Marlins 2

Chicago	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Zobrist 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.295
Bryant lf	3	2	1	0	0	0	.236
Rizzo 1b	3	1	0	0	2	0	.182
Baez ss	5	2	3	1	0	1	.288
Heyward rf	3	1	0	0	2	1	.349
Contreras c	3	1	2	3	1	0	.341
Bote 3b	5	0	1	3	0	2	.258
Almora Jr. cf	4	0	0	0	1	0	.222
Darvish p	3	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Ryan p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Cishek p	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Collins p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Totals	**35**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	
Miami	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Granderson lf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.152
Anderson 3b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.213
Castro 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.221
Chen p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Walker 1b	4	0	2	0	0	2	.231
Rojas ss-2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.310
Dean rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.250
Wallach c	3	2	1	1	1	0	.333
Brinson cf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.207
Steckenrider p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Riddle ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.156
Richards p	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Brice p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
a-Herrera ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.132
Totals	**32**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**5**	**13**	

Chicago	300	020	101	— 7 8 1
Miami	010	100	000	— 2 6 2

a-struck out for Brice in the 6th.
E—Baez (2), Dean (1), Richards (1).
LOB—Chicago 10, Miami 9.
2B—Bryant (5), Baez (5), Bote (3).
HR—Contreras (6), off Steckenrider; Wallach (1), off Darvish.
RBIs—Baez (13), Contreras 3 (12), Bote 3 (7), Wallach (1).
Runners left in scoring position—Chicago 6 (Baez, Almora Jr. 3, Darvish 2); Miami 7 (Anderson 2, Rojas 2, Dean 2, Wallach).
RISP—Chicago 3 for 11; Miami 0 for 7.
Runners moved up—Heyward, Granderson, Dean.
GIDP—Bryant, Castro.
DP—Chicago 1 (Zobrist, Baez, Rizzo); Miami 1 (Anderson, Rojas, Walker).

Chicago	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Darvish W, 1-2	5⅔	4	2	2	4	8	96	6.11
Ryan H, 1	⅔	0	0	0	1	2	13	4.15
Cishek	1⅔	1	0	0	0	1	21	4.26
Collins	1	1	0	0	0	2	18	3.00
Miami	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Richards L, 0-2	4⅔	4	5	5	4	3	96	3.57
Brice	1⅓	0	0	0	1	0	22	2.61
Steckenrider	1	1	1	1	0	1	17	7.88
Chen	2	3	1	1	1	1	24	18.00

Inherited runners-scored—Ryan 1-0, Cishek 1-0, Brice 3-0.
HBP—Richards 2 (Bryant,Contreras), Brice (Bryant), Darvish (Brinson).
PB—Contreras (1).
Umpires—Home, Jeff Kellogg; First, Brian O'Nora; Second, James Hoye; Third, Mark Ripperger.
T—3:27. **A**—9,888 (36,742).

Brewers 10, Cardinals 7

St. Louis	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Carpenter 3b	4	1	0	0	1	2	.220
Goldschmidt 1b	3	2	2	2	2	1	.226
DeJong ss	4	1	1	1	1	0	.303
Ozuna lf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.291
Molina c	5	0	1	1	0	1	.210
O'Neill cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.286
a-Robinson ph-cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
f-Wieters ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Fowler rf-cf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.239
Wong 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.280
Hudson p	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
c-Gyorko ph	0	1	0	0	1	0	.167
Martinez rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Totals	**35**	**7**	**8**	**6**	**6**	**10**	
Milwaukee	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Cain cf	4	2	1	0	1	1	.294
Yelich rf	4	3	3	7	1	0	.354
Shaw 3b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.173
Moustakas 2b	3	1	2	1	2	0	.241
Thames 1b	4	1	2	0	1	1	.241
Pina c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.154
Guerra p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
d-Braun ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Barnes p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
e-Aguilar ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.152
Hader p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Gamel lf	3	1	1	1	2	1	.267
Arcia ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.192
Peralta p	1	1	1	1	0	0	.200
Albers p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
b-Woodruff ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	1.000
Wilson p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Claudio p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Grandal c	2	1	2	0	0	0	.417
Totals	**36**	**10**	**13**	**10**	**7**	**9**	

St. Louis	201	003	001	— 7 8 1
Milwaukee	060	003	01x	— 10 13 0

a-struck out for O'Neill in the 3rd. b-doubled for Albers in the 4th. c-walked for Webb in the 6th. d-struck out for Guerra in the 7th. e-grounded out for Barnes in the 8th. f-struck out for Brebbia in the 9th. **E**—O'Neill (1). **LOB**—St. Louis 9, Milwaukee 9. **2B**—Molina (5), Moustakas (3), Woodruff (1). **HR**—Goldschmidt (7), off Peralta; DeJong (4), off Peralta; Ozuna (6), off Hader; Moustakas (6), off Hudson; Yelich (6), off Hudson; Yelich (7), off Mayers; Yelich (8), off Brebbia. **RBIs**—Goldschmidt 2 (12), DeJong (9), Ozuna 2 (13), Molina (8), Yelich 7 (22), Moustakas (10), Gamel (2), Peralta (1). **S** —Hudson. **Runners left in scoring position**—St. Louis 5 (Carpenter, DeJong, Molina, Fowler 2); Milwaukee 4 (Cain, Moustakas, Gamel 2). **RISP**—St. Louis 3 for 12; Milwaukee 5 for 13. **Runners moved up**—Wong, Arcia, Cain, Aguilar. **GIDP**—Arcia. **DP**—St. Louis 1 (DeJong, Goldschmidt).

St. Louis	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Hudson	3⅔	8	6	6	3	3	79	6.08
Webb	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	18	9.00
Mayers, L, 0-1	⅔	2	3	3	2	1	25	5.40
Leone	⅔	0	0	0	1	2	17	1.93
Brebbia	1⅔	3	1	1	1	2	36	0.79
Milwaukee	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Peralta	3⅓	4	3	3	3	3	64	7.13
Albers	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.05
Wilson, H, 2	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	7.04
Claudio, H, 5	⅓	1	3	3	2	0	20	6.14
Guerra, W, 1-0, BS, 1-2	1⅔	2	0	0	0	0	23	1.54
Barnes, H, 1	1	0	0	0	1	2	14	4.05
Hader	1	1	1	1	0	3	13	0.90

Inherited runners-scored—Webb 2-0, Leone 1-0, Albers 2-0, Guerra 3-3. **HBP**—Peralta (Ozuna). **WP**—Hudson. **PB**—Grandal (2). **Umpires**—Home, Ron Kulpa; First, Marty Foster; Second, Nic Lentz; Third, Jerry Meals. **T**—3:51. **A**—28,199 (41,900).

Rangers 12, Angels 7

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Calhoun rf	5	2	3	2	0	0	.190
Trout dh	2	2	0	0	3	0	.382
Simmons ss	5	0	1	0	0	0	.197
Pujols 1b	3	0	0	1	1	0	.224
Goodwin cf	3	1	1	3	0	1	.333
Smith c	3	1	1	0	2	0	.143
La Stella 2b	4	0	1	1	1	0	.190
Cozart 3b	4	1	0	0	1	0	.098
Fletcher lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.295
Totals	**33**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**8**	**1**	
Texas	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Choo dh	5	1	3	1	1	0	.333
Santana 2b	5	2	2	0	0	0	.500
Andrus ss	5	1	1	1	0	2	.397
Mazara rf	3	2	1	2	1	0	.244
Gallo lf	5	2	3	2	0	1	.217
Cabrera 3b	5	2	2	2	0	1	.216
Forsythe 1b	3	0	0	0	2	1	.219
Kiner-Falefa c	4	1	1	2	1	1	.269
DeShields cf	3	1	1	1	2	0	.209
Totals	**38**	**12**	**14**	**11**	**7**	**6**	

Los Angeles	301	000	120	— 7 8 1
Texas	013	043	10x	— 12 14 0

E—Calhoun (2). **LOB**—Los Angeles 10, Texas 10. **2B**—Smith (1), Fletcher (3), Andrus (4), Gallo (2), Cabrera (2). **HR**—Goodwin (2), off Miller; Calhoun (3), off Bird; Choo (1), off Cahill; Gallo (5), off Cahill; Cabrera (5), off Jewell. **RBIs**—Calhoun 2 (7), Pujols (7), Goodwin 3 (7), La Stella (8), Choo (6), Andrus (13), Mazara 2 (11), Gallo 2 (13), Cabrera 2 (11), Kiner-Falefa 2 (4), DeShields (7). **SB**—Santana 2 (2), DeShields (6). **SF**—Pujols, Goodwin. **Runners left in scoring position**—Los Angeles 6 (Simmons 2, Smith, La Stella, Cozart 2); Texas 6 (Choo 3, Santana, Mazara, Gallo). **RISP**—Los Angeles 3 for 9; Texas 4 for 19. **Runners moved up**—Simmons, Pujols, Kiner-Falefa, Andrus 2, Mazara, Cabrera.

Los Angeles	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Cahill	4	5	4	4	2	2	71	4.50
Bedrosian, L, 1-1	⅔	4	4	3	1	1	34	6.14
Jewell	1	3	3	3	1	2	35	8.10
Curtiss	2⅓	2	1	1	3	1	48	3.86
Texas	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Miller	4⅓	6	4	4	3	0	87	9.00
Dowdy, W, 1-0	2⅔	1	1	1	2	1	39	5.40
Bird	1⅔	1	2	2	3	0	37	6.75
Leclerc, S, 4-5	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	7	5.68

Inherited runners-scored—Jewell 1-0, Curtiss 1-0, Dowdy 1-0, Leclerc 3-0. **HBP**—Cahill (Mazara), Bird (Goodwin). **WP**—Cahill, Bedrosian. **Umpires**—Home, Greg Gibson; First, Carlos Torres; Second, Jeremie Rehak; Third, Gerry Davis. **T**—3:26. **A**—18,265 (49,115).

Mets 7, Phillies 6 (11)

New York	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Nimmo cf-lf	3	2	1	1	3	1	.241
Alonso 1b	4	1	1	0	1	2	.339
Familia p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Gsellman p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Avilan p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
g-d'Arnaud ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.083
Diaz p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Cano 2b	5	0	1	2	1	2	.185
Conforto rf	6	1	1	0	0	1	.313
Ramos c	6	1	1	2	0	1	.320
McNeil lf-3b	5	0	3	1	0	0	.404
Rosario ss	5	0	2	0	0	1	.266
Davis 3b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.263
Smith 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.421
Syndergaard p	2	0	0	0	0	2	.000
b-Broxton ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Lugo p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
d-Lagares ph-cf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.250
Totals	**44**	**7**	**12**	**6**	**6**	**11**	
Philadelphia	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
McCutchen lf	4	1	2	0	2	2	.273
Segura ss	5	0	2	1	1	2	.323
Harper rf	6	1	1	1	0	3	.268
Hoskins 1b	5	0	0	0	1	4	.268
Realmuto c	5	0	1	2	1	2	.231
Herrera cf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.267
Hernandez 2b	4	1	2	0	1	0	.222
Franco 3b	5	1	2	2	0	1	.265
Nola p	0	1	0	0	1	0	.000
a-Williams ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.231
Alvarez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
c-Altherr ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.083
Anderson p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
e-Knapp ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.083
Morgan p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
f-Kingery ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.471
Neshek p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Totals	**42**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**8**	**16**	

New York	003	201	000	01	— 7 12 0
Philadelphia	003	200	010	00	— 6 12 2

a-singled for Nola in the 4th. b-grounded out for Syndergaard in the 6th. c-lined out for Alvarez in the 6th. d-reached on error, out at 2nd for Lugo in the 8th. e-walked for Anderson in the 8th. f-out on fielder's choice for Morgan in the 10th. g-popped out for Avilan in the 11th. **E**—Hoskins (3), Hernandez (2). **LOB**—New York 10, Philadelphia 11. **2B**—Cano (3), Rosario (3), McCutchen (4). **HR**—Nimmo (3), off Alvarez; Franco (5), off Syndergaard. **RBIs**—Nimmo (8), Cano 2 (8), Ramos 2 (10), McNeil (10), Segura (10), Harper (10), Realmuto 2 (8), Franco 2 (14). **SB**—Rosario (2), Segura (1). **CS**—McNeil (2), Hoskins (1). **Runners left in scoring position**—New York 7 (Alonso, Conforto, Ramos 2, Rosario, Davis, Syndergaard); Philadelphia 4 (Segura 2, Harper 2). **RISP**—New York 3 for 16; Philadelphia 2 for 8. **Runners moved up**—Davis, Franco. **GIDP**—Rosario, Harper, Franco. **DP**—New York 2 (Cano, Rosario, Alonso), (McNeil, Cano, Smith); Philadelphia 1 (Hernandez, Segura, Hoskins).

New York	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Syndergaard	5	9	5	5	3	9	102	5.62
Lugo, H, 3	2	0	0	0	1	2	28	5.06
Familia, H, 3	⅔	1	1	1	3	0	23	6.48
Gsellman, BS, 2-2	1⅓	0	0	0	1	1	18	3.48
Avilan, W, 1-0	1	2	0	0	0	1	27	10.80
Diaz, S, 6-6	1	0	0	0	0	3	11	1.35
Philadelphia	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Nola	4	7	5	5	3	6	83	7.45
Alvarez	2	3	1	1	0	0	26	8.59
Anderson	2	0	0	0	2	2	20	0.00
Morgan	2	1	0	0	0	2	17	0.00
Neshek, L, 0-1	1	1	1	0	1	1	25	1.17

Inherited runners-scored—Gsellman 3-1. **PB**—Realmuto (3). **Umpires**—Home, Lance Barksdale; First, John Tumpane; Second, Ted Barrett; Third, Kerwin Danley. **T**—4:29. **A**—32,423 (43,647).

Blue Jays 5, Twins 3

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
McKinney rf-1b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.196
Galvis ss	5	1	1	0	0	0	.339
Grichuk cf	4	1	3	0	0	0	.230
Smoak 1b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.256
1-Brito pr-rf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000
Hernandez lf	4	1	3	3	0	0	.245
Drury 3b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.140
Hanson 2b	3	0	0	1	0	1	.167
Jansen dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.143
Maile c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Totals	**35**	**5**	**11**	**5**	**2**	**9**	
Minnesota	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Garver c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.423
Polanco ss	3	1	3	0	1	0	.420
Cruz dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Rosario lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.265
Cron 1b	4	1	1	3	0	1	.225
Astudillo 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.296
Cave rf	2	0	1	0	2	1	.286
Schoop 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Buxton cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.289
Totals	**32**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**8**	

Toronto	000	100	040	— 5 11 1
Minnesota	000	300	000	— 3 5 0

1-ran for Smoak in the 8th.
E—Drury (1).
LOB—Toronto 6, Minnesota 6.
2B—Grichuk 2 (6), Smoak (2), Drury (2), Cave (1).
HR—Hernandez (1), off Mejia; Cron (2), off Shoemaker. **RBIs**—Smoak (8), Hernandez 3 (9), Hanson (2), Cron 3 (7). **CS**—Hernandez (1). **SF**—Hanson. **Runners left in scoring position**—Toronto 3 (Hernandez, Maile 2); Minnesota 3 (Rosario, Schoop, Buxton). **RISP**—Toronto 3 for 9; Minnesota 1 for 4. **Runners moved up**—Jansen, Cruz. **GIDP**—Cruz. **DP**—Toronto 1 (Drury, Hanson, Smoak).

Toronto	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Shoemaker	6	4	3	3	4	4	100	1.75
Gaviglio, W, 1-0	1	1	0	0	0	1	10	1.64
Mayza, H, 4	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	6	7.71
Hudson, H, 3	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	10	6.14
Biagini, S, 1-2	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	3.38
Minnesota	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Perez	6	7	1	1	2	5	86	5.02
Harper, H, 1	1	0	0	0	0	2	15	0.00
Mejia, L, 0-1, BS, 1-1	2	4	4	4	0	2	43	9.39

WP—Shoemaker. **Umpires**—Home, Mike Estabrook; First, Paul Emmel; Second, Bruce Dreckman; Third, Sean Barber. **T**—3:00. **A**—11,727 (38,649).

Rockies 5, Padres 2

Colorado	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Blackmon rf	4	0	0	1	0	1	.221
Hampson 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.176
Arenado 3b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.254
Story ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.242
Reynolds 1b	2	1	1	0	2	1	.194
Cuevas lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
1-Tapia pr-lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.235
Desmond cf	4	1	2	3	0	0	.164
Butera c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.250
Senzatela p	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Estevez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
b-Fuentes ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.118
Oberg p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Davis p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Totals	**33**	**5**	**8**	**5**	**2**	**7**	
San Diego	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Margot cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.308
Reyes rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.222
Machado 3b	3	0	2	0	0	1	.267
Myers lf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.295
Hosmer 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.203
Tatis Jr. ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.283
Hedges c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.200
Urias 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.105
Lucchesi p	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
a-Renfroe ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Perdomo p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
c-Kinsler ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.160
Totals	**33**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**7**	

Colorado	020	001	200	— 5 8 0
San Diego	000	100	001	— 2 8 1

a-grounded out for Lucchesi in the 7th. b-struck out for Estevez in the 9th. c-struck out for Perdomo in the 9th. 1-ran for Cuevas in the 4th. **E**—Machado (2). **LOB**—Colorado 4, San Diego 7. **2B**—Desmond (4), Butera (1), Hedges (1). **3B**—Tapia (2). **HR**—Arenado (2), off Lucchesi; Desmond (1), off Lucchesi; Reyes (4), off Senzatela; Myers (4), off Oberg. **RBIs**—Blackmon (5), Arenado (10), Desmond 3 (8), Reyes (8), Myers (8). **CS**—Hampson (1). **S** —Senzatela. **Runners left in scoring position**—Colorado 2 (Senzatela, Fuentes); San Diego 2 (Hedges, Kinsler). **RISP**—Colorado 1 for 9; San Diego 0 for 2. **Runners moved up**—Cuevas, Blackmon. **LIDP**—Hedges. **GIDP**—Desmond, Myers. **DP**—Colorado 2 (Story, Reynolds), (Arenado, Hampson, Reynolds); San Diego 1 (Tatis Jr., Urias, Hosmer).

Colorado	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Senzatela, W, 1-0	6⅔	6	1	1	1	4	83	1.35
Estevez	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	16	4.70
Oberg	⅔	2	1	1	0	1	25	2.45
Davis, S, 1-1	⅓	0	0	0	1	1	10	0.00
San Diego	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Lucchesi, L, 2-2	7	7	5	5	2	4	89	5.06
Perdomo	2	1	0	0	0	3	28	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—Estevez 1-0, Davis 1-0. **HBP**—Senzatela (Machado). **Umpires**—Home, Phil Cuzzi; First, Chad Whitson; Second, Adam Hamari; Third, Todd Tichenor. **T**—2:38. **A**—24,867 (42,445).

Dodgers 4, Reds 3

Cincinnati	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so	avg
Casali c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.350
Suarez 3b	4	1	1	0	0	3	.283
Puig rf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.191
Kemp lf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.195
Peraza 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.167
Stephenson p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
c-Winker ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.186
R.Iglesias p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
J.Iglesias ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.235
Schebler cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Farmer 1b-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.133
b-Votto ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Castillo p	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
a-Lorenzen ph-p	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Peralta p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Dietrich 1b-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**10**	
Los Angeles	**ab**	**r**	**h**	**bi**	**bb**	**so**	**avg**
Pederson lf	4	2	2	2	1	0	.255
Seager ss	4	1	0	0	0	2	.222
Turner 3b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.302
Bellinger rf	1	0	1	1	0	0	.433
Verdugo rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.333
Pollock cf	3	0	0	1	1	2	.243
Muncy 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.245
Hernandez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.296
Barnes c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.256
Kershaw p	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Baez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Jansen p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
d-Freese ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.350
1-Taylor pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.175
Totals	**29**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**6**	**10**	

Cincinnati	200	000	001	— 3 7 1
Los Angeles	100	010	002	— 4 5 0

a-struck out for Castillo in the 6th.
b-struck out for Farmer in the 8th.
c-struck out for Stephenson in the 9th.
d-walked for Jansen in the 9th. 1-ran for Freese in the 9th. **E**—Farmer (1).
LOB—Cincinnati 2, Los Angeles 9.
2B—Casali (4), Bellinger (4).
HR—Puig (2), off Kershaw; Pederson (7), off R.Iglesias.
RBIs—Puig 2 (8), Kemp (4), Pederson 2 (12), Bellinger (23), Pollock (11).
CS—Peraza (1).
S —Kershaw.
Runners left in scoring position—Los Angeles 6 (Pederson, Muncy 3, Hernandez 2).
RISP—Cincinnati 1 for 3; Los Angeles 1 for 8.
Runners moved up—Puig.
GIDP—Schebler.
DP—Los Angeles 1 (Seager, Hernandez, Muncy).

Cincinnati	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Castillo	5	4	2	2	5	7	98	1.46
Lorenzen	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.16
Peralta	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	11	0.00
Stephenson	2	0	0	0	0	2	22	0.96
R.Iglesias, L, 0-3, BS, 1-3	0	1	2	2	1	0	8	6.75
Los Angeles	**ip**	**h**	**r**	**er**	**bb**	**so**	**np**	**era**
Kershaw	7	5	2	2	0	6	84	2.57
Baez	1	0	0	0	0	2	17	4.09
Jansen, W, 1-0	1	2	1	1	0	2	20	2.45

Inherited runners-scored—Peralta 1-0. **HBP**—Castillo (Bellinger). **Umpires**—Home, Angel Hernandez; First, Ed Hickox; Second, Nick Mahrley; Third, Dana DeMuth. **T**—2:49. **A**—52,974 (56,000).

Yi-Chin Lee / Staff photographer

The Astros' Yuli Gurriel, left, and Aledmys Diaz have a natural bond that extends from taking similar journeys from their native Cuba to careers in the major leagues.

On deck: Astros at Oakland Athletics

When/where: Today and Wednesday at 9:07 p.m.; Oakland Coliseum.
TV/radio: ATTSW today, ATTSW+ on Wednesday; 790 AM, 740 AM (today only), 101.7 FM (Spanish), 850 AM (Spanish, today only).
Pitchers: Today, RHP Collin McHugh (2-1, 2.65) vs. RHP Marco Estrada (0-1, 4.87); Wednesday, LHP Wade Miley (1-1, 3.45) vs. RHP Frankie Montas (2-1, 3.18).
Astros (11-5) update: A nine-game winning streak has pulled the Astros within a game of AL-West leading Seattle. A three-game sweep of the A's at Minute Maid Park from April 5-7 constitutes the first third of that streak. McHugh and Miley both earned wins in that series. ... The Astros are hitting a collective .311 (96-for-309) during the streak. ... During manager A.J. Hinch's tenure, dating to the start of the 2015 season, the Astros are an MLB-best 188-145 (.565) on the road, directly ahead of the Cubs (185-148, .556). Since the start of 2017, the Astros are 114-57 (.667) on the road. No other team has 100 road wins in that span. ... Leadoff man George Springer has reached base safely in all 16 games this season. ... Roberto Osuna is 7-for-7 in save chances this year and has converted all 19 of his opportunities since being dealt to Houston last July.
Athletics (10-9) update: Oakland ranks second in the majors with 36 home runs (to Seattle's 39) and has hit multiple homers in a club-record seven consecutive games. ... Defending MLB home run champion Khris Davis is again atop the leader board with 10. ... Josh Phegley has been among the majors' most productive catchers in the early going, slashing .325/.341/.600 with three homers and nine RBIs in 13 games. ... The only run closer Blake Treinen (0.87 ERA) has allowed since last Aug. 25 was the game-winner he forced in with a bases-loaded walk to Jose Altuve in the Astros' 9-8 comeback win April 7.

Chandler Rome

ASTROS

From page C1

"First of all, as a human being, to have a chance to have freedom, go wherever you want to go, and think whatever you want to think, it's a big change in life. At the same time, you have the chance to prove (yourself) at this level. A lot of Cuban players have the talent, but they don't have the chance.

"It would be great in the future," he added, "if (more) Cuban players would have the chance to come over here and play at this level."

Under the landmark deal Major League Baseball struck with the Cuban Baseball Federation in December, Diaz's desires were ostensibly realized.

The agreement forced the Cuban Baseball Federation to release contracted players who wished to sign with MLB clubs. Players had to be at least 25 and have at least six years of playing experience. Professional leagues in Korea, Japan and China have similar agreements with Major League Baseball.

Last week, President Donald Trump's administration canceled the agreement. It contended the baseball federation was part of the Cuban government.

"I was definitely very happy initially, especially knowing that because of that, we would have had more Cuban players able to come to the (United) States," Gurriel said through Astros interpreter Oz Ocampo.

Gurriel said he is "a little sad" over the scuttling of the deal, "especially for the players that I've spoken to who have heard the news and are disappointed about it."

Part of MLB's agreement called for a "release fee" that would go to the Cuban Baseball Federation from any major league team signing one of its players.

The Trump administration rescinded a policy by former President Barack Obama that ruled Cuba's baseball league was independent of its government. The U.S. currently has a commercial, financial and economic embargo against Cuba.

"Payments to the Cuban Baseball Federation are not authorized ... because a payment to the Cuban Baseball Federation is a payment to the Cuban government," read a letter sent to MLB from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. ESPN obtained the letter and reported its contents last week.

Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow declined comment about the deal this week.

"They don't get the whole information, so it's tough for the Cuban people to know what's going on," Diaz said Sunday. "So I feel like on this side we have a little more information about that. Like I said, it's a complicated situation."

> ***"It's a dream for everyone — for all young Cuban players — to have the chance to get here and help his family."***
>
> *Astros infielder Aledmys Diaz*

MLB has long tried to make safer the distressing and often dangerous defections Cuban ballplayers undergo to get to the United States. Essentially smuggled into the U.S., players have been subjected to such things as perilous boat rides and the threat of jail time in their native country if caught and captured.

In its news release announcing the December agreement, Major League Baseball touted it as "a safe and legal path" for Cubans to sign in the majors. Commissioner Rob Manfred said MLB had been "seeking to end the trafficking of baseball players from Cuba by criminal organizations by creating a safe and legal alternative for those players to sign."

Gurriel, 34, and Diaz, 28, defected during tournaments in which they played as part of the Cuban national team. Diaz fled from the Netherlands in 2012. He waited for a year in Mexico City while his "paperwork got in order," he said Sunday. Reports at the time said Diaz presented a false birthday and incurred a one-year suspension.

Four years after Diaz's defection, Gurriel and his younger brother, Lourdes Jr., left the Dominican Republic during the Carribean Series. Lourdes told The Athletic last year the brothers spent a month basically trapped in Haiti while their handlers figured out logistics.

"It was a very difficult decision, but at the same time it was a good decision because it allowed me to live my dream of wanting to play baseball here at the highest level – in the major leagues – and I've been able to do it," said Yuli Gurriel, whose father once managed the Cuban national team and is part of a family regarded as Cuban baseball royalty. "And I have been able to achieve even more than I've thought before (because) we have a World Series ring."

Diaz, who watched Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez win a World Series with the 1998 Yankees in his first American season after defecting, did not initially think he could achieve similar success. But beginning at age 12, Diaz played with the Cuban national team, and his mind began to change when he saw major league games while staying at hotels in Japan and Canada.

"Then, the first World Baseball Classic (in 2006), I was able to see the Dominican team, the Puerto Rican team, how they played the game, how they enjoyed the game," Diaz said.

Diaz also saw other Cubans make it to the big leagues, and he, like Gurriel, made his MLB debut in 2016.

"I've had a chance to see (Yoenis) Cespedes and (Jose) Abreu and (Aroldis) Chapman," Diaz said. "They came before me, and I realized that I may have the chance to get here and play, too. It's a dream for everyone – for all young Cuban players – to have the chance to get here and help his family."

Diaz's English is excellent, and Gurriel's is improving. Before Sunday's 3-2 win over Seattle, Diaz playfully offered to translate for Gurriel during a conversation. Gurriel gave a wide smile and cracked a joke in perfect English. Still, he preferred an interpreter when speaking on the record.

"It was disappointing, but at the same time, people back 10 years ago, there wasn't anything," Gurriel said. "And so, to have an advancement to move forward, that is heartening. Maybe, hopefully, in a couple years we can get this all sorted out."

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123RD BOSTON MARATHON

Kenya's Cherono outkicks two-time winner Desisa

By Jimmy Golen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winslow Townson / Associated Press

Lawrence Cherono of Kenya breaks the tape to win the 123rd Boston Marathon just ahead of two-time winner Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia. Cherono's time of 2:07:57 beat Desisa by 2 seconds.

BOSTON – Two-time Boston Marathon champion Lelisa Desisa turned onto Boylston Street with a sliver of a lead, leaning in front of two other runners with the finish line in sight.

Unfortunately for him, one of them was the fastest man in the field.

Lawrence Cherono needed every bit of his speed to outkick Desisa in a sprint to the tape on Monday, passing him just steps away from the finish line to win the 123rd Boston Marathon in 2 hours, 7 minutes, 57 seconds.

Desisa, who won in 2013 and 2015, the year the race was overshadowed by a bombing at the finish line, eased up after realizing he was beaten and finished 2 seconds back. Kenneth Kipkemoi was third, another 8 seconds behind – one of seven Kenyans in the top 10.

"It was no man's race to win," said Cherono, who had won in Seville, Prague, Honolulu and twice in Amsterdam but never in a major marathon before. "I kept on focusing. And at the end, I was the winner. I'm so grateful, so happy."

Worknesh Degefa broke away from defending champion Des Linden and the rest of the women's pack in the Framingham flats and ran alone for the last 20 miles to claim the $150,000 first prize and a gilded olive wreath from Marathon, Greece.

The 28-year-old Ethiopian, who set a national record while finishing second in Dubai less than three months ago, won in 2:23:31. Kenya's Edna Kiplagat was second, reducing a gap of more than two minutes to 42 seconds at the finish.

American Jordan Hasay was third, and Linden was fifth.

"Seeing Degefa go out – you know her ability, you know what she's done and you wonder how it translates to this course," Linden said. "But when she starts putting down those super quick miles, you say, 'All right, this is her race to lose.' She becomes the outlier, and you let her just go and hope that she might come back."

She didn't.

Instead, she became the eighth Ethiopian woman to win the race and the third in seven years. A half-marathon specialist, Degefa never had seen the Boston course before Monday.

"Last year, I watched all the marathon coverage," she said. "I kept that in my mind."

One year after an icy rain and a near-gale headwind resulted in the slowest winning times in four decades, race organizers again prepared for the foul New England weather. But overnight thunderstorms moved on before the runners left Hopkinton; the sun even made an appearance about halfway through.

Linden took advantage of last year's storm to splash her way to the first win for an American woman since 1985.

But with conditions back to normal, so were the results: East Africans from Kenya and Ethiopia dominating the podiums. At about the 19-milemark, the lead pack was still close to a dozen and included three of the last four champions – Desisa, 2016 winner Geoffrey Kirui and '17 champ Lemi Berhanu Hayle.

"I was afraid of the guy who won two years ago. After he dropped out, I decided to win," said Desisa, who did not finish in either of the last two years. "I tried at the last, I saw (Cherono) suddenly, then I couldn't control the pace."

A field of 30,000 runners followed the elites, ditching their trash bags and ponchos on the Hopkinton Green before embarking on the 26.2-mile trek from Hopkinton to Copley Square. It is the first time the race has been run on April 15 since the 2013 attacks; officials held a ceremony at 2:49 p.m. EDT to honor those killed and maimed by the two pressure cooker bombs that exploded near the finish line.

Daniel Romanchuk, 20, became the youngestmen's wheelchair champion in Boston, finishing in 1:21:36 for the fastest time for an American. Manuela Schar won the women's wheelchair race for the second time, adding it to her titles in in Berlin, Chicago, New York and Tokyo.

Seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson did nott have many problems on the marathon race course, finishing in 3 hours, 9 minutes, 7 seconds.

It was only after receiving his medal from 2014 winner Meb Keflezighi that Johnson ran into a road block: On his way to a post-trace media availability, security wouldn't let him through.

On the course, it was a different story.

"I couldn't believe how many people did spot me," Johnson said. "Once somebody would recognize me, the crowd would get going, and I could kind of egg them on and get everybody pretty loud, which is a lot of fun."

Unlike at a NASCAR race, when the fans are split among 40 different drivers, Johnson felt like the spectators lining the 26.2-mile course from Hopkinton to Boston's Copley Square were cheering for everyone. Other runners also recognized him and offered pointers.

"I had countless people come by and (be) like, 'All right, I know it's your first. We've got this coming up. Get another gel, '" he said. "It never happens at my day job. There's never advice passed out."

Wearing Bib No. 4848 as a nod to his No. 48 Chevrolet, Johnson set out with the goal of breaking 3 hours , but he realized about seven miles in: "It wasn't in the cards."

Still, it is the fastest Boston Marathon run by a Daytona 500 winner.

Michael Waltrip ran Boston in 2000 and finished in 4:42:20.

So Johnson is pretty happy for his debut.

"Well, it's a PR," Johnson said. "So I'll take that."

NBA PLAYOFFS

GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3	GAME 4	*GAME 5	*GAME 6	*GAME 7
ROCKETS 122 JAZZ 90	**JAZZ AT ROCKETS**	**ROCKETS AT JAZZ**	**ROCKETS AT JAZZ**	**JAZZ AT ROCKETS**	**ROCKETS AT JAZZ**	**JAZZ AT ROCKETS**
Sunday at Houston Rockets lead series 1-0	8:30 p.m. Wednesday **TV:** ATTSW, TNT	9:30 p.m. Saturday **TV:** ATTSW, ESPN	9:30 p.m. Apri 22 **TV:** ATTSW, TNT	TBD APRIL 24 **TV:** ATTSW, TBD	TBD Apri 26 **TV:** ATTSW, TBD	TBD April 28 **TV:** ATTSW, TBD

Radio: 740 AM, 850 AM (Spanish); *if necessary

ROCKETS REPORT

House likes intensity of playoff experience

After weeks in which **Danuel House Jr.** looked forward to his first playoff experience, after all the advice in the form of stern directions he had received from the Rockets' veterans when he prepared, he mostly found playing in Game 1 on Sunday to be a good time.

"It was fun," House said. "It was a different atmosphere for me. I just wanted to make sure I contributed in a major way defensively and just let my offense come as it goes. To me, it was all about being in the right defensive rotation. This is championship time. We've got to get stops in order to win games."

With that, he returned to his enjoyment that seemed to be about more than the Rockets' 32-point win.

"It's fun. That was fun," House said. "It's high-level basketball and guys were competing. It's always fun to go out and just compete."

House started slowly, making 1 of his first 6 shots. But with a pair of fourth-quarter 3-pointers and a baseline drive to a slam, he helped turn the game into a blowout.

House finished with 11 points in 25 minutes.

"I'm just making sure that I can spread the floor, so **James (Harden**) can get down the lane if he wants to and throw CC **(Clint Capela**) the lob or CP **(Chris Paul**) can snake it or go down the lane and make an extra pass," House said. "So it's really fun to be a contributor to a team like this that's this good."

Capela expects to be recovered by Game 2

Rockets center **Clint Capela** was far from full strength against the Jazz on Sunday but said the two off days before Game 2 could be enough to get past the upper respiratory infection that limited him in Game 1.

It also could aid his trash-talk battle with Jazz center **Rudy Gobert**.

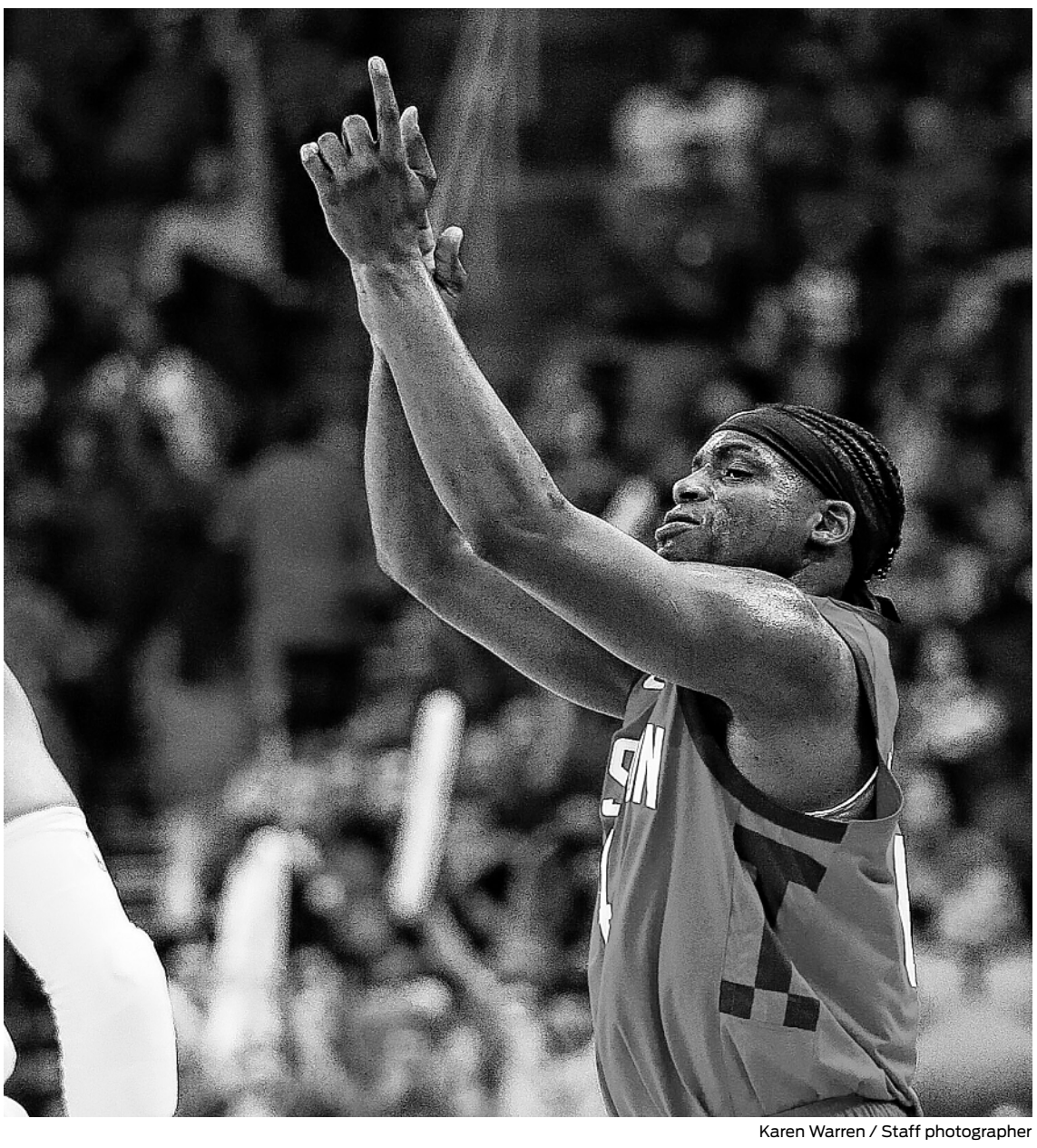
"It was one of my toughest games, because it was kind of hard to recover whenever I was sprinting, whenever I made big efforts for offensive rebounds or defensive rebounds," Capela said. "It felt kind of hard to breathe. I'm going to have a couple of days to come back even better and better."

Capela had 16 points and 12 rebounds in his 32½ minutes, also holding his own in the exchange of trash talk with Gobert, a mentor and his French League role model.

"He tries to say stuff, but today - I kind of talked to him first," Capela said on Sunday. "I got him kind of mad, but it's kind of a game that we always (have) been playing since we were back in France. It's like a rivalry that we like to have.

"I told him 'When are you going to get the ball in the post and take a turnaround jumper, something like that or get a ball screen?' Of course, in the game, I get screens and he tries to go to the rim. That was pretty fun."

Jonathan Feigen



Karen Warren / Staff photographer

Rockets forward Danuel House Jr. celebrates one of the three 3-pointers he hit during his playoff debut Sunday night in Game 1.

ROCKETS

From page C1

same rotation more or less, the same guys in that mix that understand exactly what we want to do.

"We can get better from this. We fouled way too many times and put them on the line. That's something we have to cure for the next game. But it doesn't surprise me that we can defend. At all."

The Jazz had the second-ranked defense in the NBA this season; the Rockets 18th. But since the All-Star break, when the Rockets' starting lineup was together and healthy for the first time since Dec. 19, the last game in a five-game winning streak that included a win at Utah, they ranked second, behind only the Jazz.

"They do things differently than a lot of teams," Jazz forward Thabo Sefolosha said. "It's really unpredictable at times. We have the tools and weapons obviously to pick them apart, but we have to do it better. They do a lot of different things and it's hard to figure out at times."

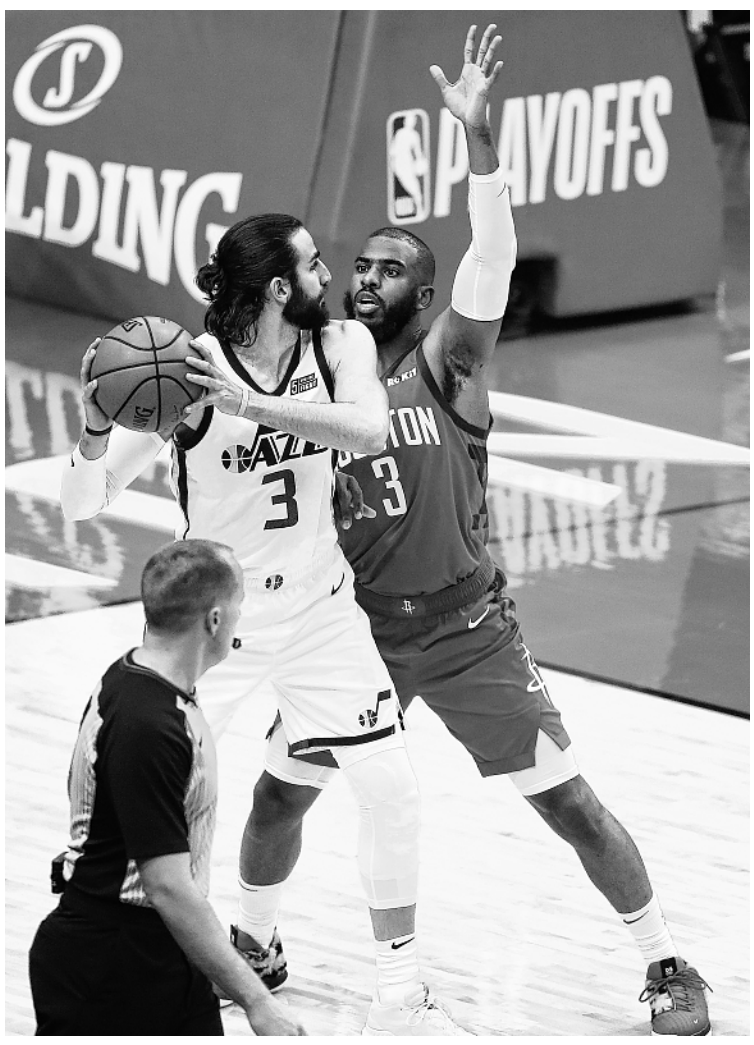
The starting lineup that included Eric Gordon went 21-5 this season in the regular-season. The defensive rating in the 39 games that group - with Clint Capela, Chris Paul, Harden, Tucker and Gordon - shared the floor would have ranked first in the NBA for a full team, allowing 103.5 points per 100 possessions.

It did considerably better than that Sunday, giving up 95.1 points per 100 possessions. When matched up with Mitchell, Gordon allowed just one field goal in five attempts with three turnovers.

"Eric is one of the better defenders in the league, without a doubt," D'Antoni said. "Nobody ever talks about it because he's pretty understated. But he's so strong nobody can really post him up. He puts his chest on people. He's just really good at what he does."

But even when the Rockets switched, they were consistently aggressive and disruptive.

"Their physicality defensively disrupted us," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "The ball stopped and got stuck on one side of the floor. We just have to be more determined in those situations."



Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

When Chris Paul, guarding the Jazz's Ricky Rubio, and other ailing Rockets became healthy, the team's defense took off.

As much attention was paid to the Jazz defensive schemes, forcing James Harden to his right and into traffic in the lane, the Rockets adjusted to the initial Jazz burst, when they were rapidly slipping screens to get the ball quickly to the rim.

The Jazz made 8 of 10 shots to start the game, all but one in the lane, before the Rockets' defense tightened. The Jazz made 22 of 67 shots the rest of the way. After scoring 14 points in the paint in 6½ minutes, they scored 28 there the rest of the game.

"I think we have a more versatile defense than we've ever had," Rockets guard Austin Rivers said. "We have a lot of guards who are physical, can slide their feet. That really helps the bigs, keeping the ball in front."

That's where the defensive improvement starts. The communication on switches was loud and visible. More than that, after that poor start, when the Rockets switched, they defended with force.

"That's something that we always emphasize," Tucker said. "When we're aggressive as a team, our defense goes to another level."

To the Rockets, that was nothing new. They expect a tougher test on Wednesday, with the Jazz likely to move the ball from side to side more often and Mitchell in particular to drive more decisively. But more than ever, the Rockets seemed happy to pin their hopes on their defense.

"That's what we have to do," Harden said. "That's how we have to play defensively. We have to be aggressive. We have to disrupt their routes and their plays and things they like to do and make sure that they're not comfortable. If we don't do that, we don't have a chance. Defensively, we've been locked in these last couple of months."

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CREECH

From page C1

It's going to take a lot of adjusting, but Jazz players said they were able to pinpoint their issues. And despite the ugly loss, Utah isn't in any serious trouble yet. The Jazz have the chance to even things up Wednesday night at 8:30 at Toyota Center.

Win by 30, lose by 30 – the loss counts as only one for the Jazz, and the win counts as only one for the Rockets.

"Now that it is behind us, we will do our due diligence and be better," Utah's Thabo Sefolosha said Monday.

Is better going to be good enough? The Rockets are playing some of their best basketball at the right time. After a rocky start to the season, they finished strong, going 20-5 in their last 25 games.

They are healthy, they are defending well, and they boast the NBA's best player in Harden.

Had they won their final game of the regular season, the Rockets could have ended up the No. 2 seed. This is a team better than its No. 4 seeding.

On Sunday, the Jazz looked a lot worse than a team seeded fifth in the Western Conference. Jitters from the postseason opener might have been one of their issues, but for the most part, the Jazz just weren't good enough.

Three things will be integral to a Utah turnaround.

1) Donovan Mitchell needs to be more productive. Eric Gordon did an exceptional job on Mitchell on Sunday night. He stuck to him like glue, was physical with him and made him uncomfortable. The Jazz have to find a way to get Mitchell more involved. He makes them tick.

"We have to get the pressure off of him," Favors said. "We have to create for him, set screens, all the little things to let him do what he does well."

2) The Jazz, who had the league's No. 1 defense in the regular season, need another plan on Harden. The viral video of Ricky Rubio letting Harden pass him at midcourt was just strange. Every team has tried to come up with new ways to guard Harden, but this one didn't work.

"We shaded him right, because on the left he's got the step-back, and it's a 3 every time, no matter who is on him," Rubio said after the game. "He is one of the best in the league at doing it."

Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

Center Rudy Gobert gets the kind of shot the Jazz will need more of in Game 2 and beyond.

Harden is also good at creating for his teammates. So in the midst of trying to hold him by forcing him one direction, the Jazz didn't really slow him down. Harden just found more ways to involve his teammates and finished with 29 points and 10 assists. Sefolosha didn't say after watching film if the Jazz would try the same approach, but he did say they learned from it.

"That was our first time doing it to that extent," Sefolosha said. "We know what worked and didn't work, and now we can keep working on it and try to see what we need to do in the next game."

3) If the Jazz can't figure out how to best the Rockets in Houston, they can always rely on Games 3 and 4 being more of a challenge for their opponents. Utah's Vivint Smart Home Arena is one of the most hostile environments in the league. The fans are loud and rowdy and truly give their team home-court advantage.

That said, the Jazz will have to win at least once at Toyota Center if they're to win the series.

It's hard to look at Sunday's result and think the Jazz look primed for a comeback, but this series isn't a lost cause for Utah.

"It's a long series," Sefolosha said. "You'd like to get right back into it, but we will use our time wisely and work on the things that can make us better."

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NBA PLAYOFFS AT A GLANCE

Western Conference

Golden State vs. L.A. Clippers

Series tied 1-1

Game 1: Golden State 121, L.A. Clippers 104
Game 2: L.A. Clippers 135, Golden State 131
Game 3: At L.A. Clippers; 9:30 p.m. Thursday
Game 4: At L.A. Clippers; 2:30 p.m. Sunday
Game 5: At Golden State; TBD April 24
Game 6: At L.A. Clippers; TBD April 26-x
Game 7: At Golden State; TBD April 28-x

Denver vs. San Antonio

Spurs lead series 1-0

Game 1: San Antonio 101, Denver 96
Game 2: At Denver; 8 p.m. today
Game 3: At San Antonio; 8 p.m. Thursday
Game 4: At San Antonio; 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Game 5: At Denver; TBD April 23-x
Game 6: At San Antonio; TBD April 25-x
Game 7: At Denver; TBD April 27-x

Portland vs. Oklahoma City

Trail Blazers lead series 1-0

Game 1: Portland 104, Oklahoma City 99
Game 2: At Portland; 9:30 p.m. today
Game 3: At Oklahoma City; 8:30 p.m. Friday
Game 4: At Oklahoma City; 8:30 p.m. Sunday
Game 5: At Portland; TBD April 23-x
Game 6: At Oklahoma City; TBD April 25-x
Game 7: At Portland; TBD April 27-x

Houston vs. Utah

Rockets lead series 1-0

Game 1: Houston 122, Utah 90
Game 2: At Houston; 8:30 p.m. Wednesday
Game 3: At Utah; 9:30 p.m. Saturday
Game 4: At Utah; 9:30 p.m. April 22
Game 5: At Houston; TBD April 24-x
Game 6: At Utah; TBD April 26-x
Game 7: At Houston; TBD April 28-x

Eastern Conference

Milwaukee vs. Detroit

Bucks lead series 1-0

Game 1: Milwaukee 121, Detroit 86
Game 2: At Milwaukee; 7 p.m. Wednesday
Game 3: At Detroit; 7 p.m. Saturday
Game 4: At Detroit; 7 p.m. April 22
Game 5: At Milwaukee; TBD April 24-x
Game 6: At Detroit; TBD April 26-x
Game 7: At Milwaukee; TBD April 28-x

Toronto vs. Orlando

Magic lead series 1-0

Game 1: Orlando 104, Toronto 101
Game 2: At Toronto; 7 p.m. today
Game 3: At Orlando; 6 p.m. Friday
Game 4: At Orlando; 6 p.m. Sunday
Game 5: At Toronto; TBD April 23-x
Game 6: At Orlando; TBD April 25-x
Game 7: At Toronto; TBD April 27-x

Philadelphia vs. Brooklyn

Series tied 1-1

Game 1: Brooklyn 111, Philadelphia 102
Game 2: Philadelphia 145, Brooklyn 123
Game 3: At Brooklyn; 7 p.m. Thursday
Game 4: At Brooklyn; 2 p.m. Saturday
Game 5: At Philadelphia; TBD April 23
Game 6: At Brooklyn; TBD April 25-x
Game 7: At Philadelphia; TBD April 27-x

Boston vs. Indiana

Celtics lead series 1-0

Game 1: Boston 84, Indiana 74
Game 2: At Boston; 6 p.m. Wednesday
Game 3: At Indiana; 7:30 p.m. Friday
Game 4: At Indiana; noon Sunday
Game 5: At Boston; TBD April 24-x
Game 6: At Indiana; TBD April 26-x
Game 7: At Boston; TBD April 28-x

Note: Best-of-7; x-if necessary

BOX SCORES

76ers 145, Nets 123

Brooklyn
Carroll 2-7 0-0 6, Kurucs 3-7 2-2 8, Allen 3-4 3-4 9, Russell 6-16 1-1 16, J.Harris 1-4 2-2 4, Graham 2-4 1-4 5, Hollis-Jefferson 5-10 5-6 15, Davis 1-1 0-0 2, Napier 4-6 3-4 13, Dinwiddie 8-16 0-1 19, LeVert 3-8 5-5 13, Musa 2-2 0-0 4, Pinson 3-5 0-0 9. Totals 43-90 22-29 123.

Philadelphia
Butler 3-10 1-2 7, T.Harris 5-12 7-7 19, Embiid 8-12 7-8 23, B.Simmons 8-12 2-4 18, Redick 7-12 1-1 17, Ennis III 2-2 2-2 6, Bolden 0-2 1-2 1, Scott 5-7 2-2 15, Monroe 2-3 0-0 5, Marjanovic 8-14 0-0 16, McConnell 4-5 0-0 8, Korkmaz 2-4 2-2 7, J.Simmons 1-3 1-2 3. Totals 55-98 26-32 145.

Brooklyn	**28**	**36**	**23**	**36**	**— 123**
Philadelphia	**34**	**31**	**51**	**29**	**— 145**

3-point goals: Brooklyn 15-36 (Pinson 3-4, Russell 3-7, Dinwiddie 3-7, Napier 2-3, LeVert 2-4, Carroll 2-5, J.Harris 0-2, Graham 0-2, Kurucs 0-2), Philadelphia 9-23 (Scott 3-5, T.Harris 2-4, Redick 2-5, Monroe 1-2, Korkmaz 1-2, Butler 0-1, Bolden 0-2, J.Simmons 0-2). **Rebounds:** Brooklyn 32 (Allen 6), Philadelphia 49 (B.Simmons, Embiid 10). **Assists:** Brooklyn 20 (Allen 4), Philadelphia 29 (B.Simmons 12). **Total fouls:** Brooklyn 24, Philadelphia 23. **Technicals:** Brooklyn coach Nets (Defensive three second), Redick. **A:** 20,591 (20,478).

Clippers 135, Warriors 131

L.A. Clippers
Gilgeous-Alexander 2-5 0-0 4, Gallinari 8-17 5-6 24, Zubac 1-2 0-0 2, Beverley 3-8 2-2 10, Shamet 4-9 0-0 12, J.Green 5-6 1-2 13, Harrell 9-9 7-9 25, Chandler 1-3 0-0 2, Thornwell 0-0 0-0 0, Temple 2-4 2-2 7, Williams 13-22 8-10 36. Totals 48-85 25-31 135.

Golden State
Durant 5-8 11-12 21, D.Green 5-9 3-4 14, Cousins 0-1 2-2 2, Curry 8-18 8-8 29, Thompson 6-11 4-4 17, McKinnie 0-0 0-0 0, Bell 0-0 0-0 0, Looney 6-6 7-8 19, Jerebko 0-1 0-0 0, Bogut 1-2 1-2 3, Livingston 3-6 0-1 6, Cook 4-7 0-0 11, Iguodala 2-6 4-4 9. Totals 40-75 40-45 131.

L.A. Clippers	**25**	**25**	**44**	**41**	**— 135**
Golden State	**33**	**40**	**35**	**23**	**— 131**

3-point goals: L.A. Clippers 14-31 (Shamet 4-9, Gallinari 3-6, J.Green 2-3, Williams 2-4, Beverley 2-5, Temple 1-2, Chandler 0-2), Golden State 11-28 (Curry 5-11, Cook 3-3, D.Green 1-3, Thompson 1-4, Iguodala 1-5, Durant 0-1, Jerebko 0-1). **Fouled out:** Durant, J.Green, Beverley. **Rebounds:** L.A. Clippers 34 (Harrell 10), Golden State 38 (Bogut 9). **Assists:** L.A. Clippers 34 (Williams 11), Golden State 31 (D.Green 9). **Total fouls:** L.A. Clippers 33, Golden State 31. **A:** 19,596 (19,596).

NBA PLAYOFFS

76ers strike back; Clips top Warriors

PHILADELPHIA – Ben Simmons got an earful from the Philly crowd.

With the same 76ers fans Simmons put on blast for booing in the playoff opener now going wild in Game 2, Simmons cupped a hand to his right ear just like Allen Iverson's signature move to spur the cheers even louder.

And he did it with Iverson rooting on the Sixers from courtside.

Simmons had 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and the Philadelphia 76ers had an answer for the pesky Brooklyn Nets in a 145-123 win to even their Eastern Conference playoff series Monday night.

Simmons had a disastrous Game 1 , on the court (nine points) and from a PR perspective after he criticized fans for booing during a game the Sixers were never really in. He backtracked the next day at practice and never gave another 20,591 fans a chance to do anything but roar in approval in Game 2. Simmons used his size and speed to attack the lane and scored 16 points in the half – and then put the game away in the third.

The Sixers busted the game open with a 14-0 run to start the second half and then stretched the lead to 20 on a Simmons steal and basket. With a packed house standing, Simmons got a massive ovation when he cupped his hand to his ear like Iverson did in his prime.

CLIPPERS 135 WARRIORS 131

Lou Williams scored 36 points and Landry Shamet hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 16.5 seconds remaining as Los Angeles won at Oakland to even the series at a game apiece.

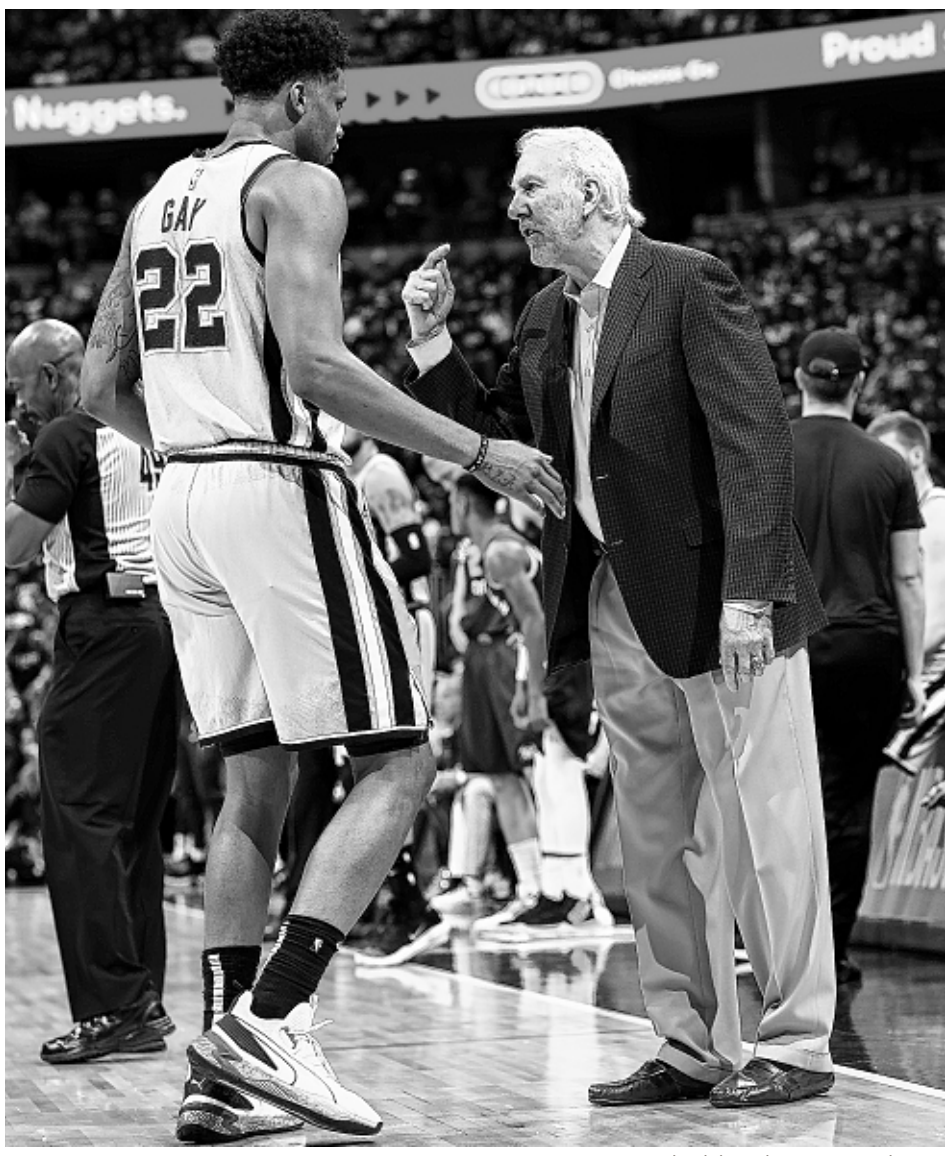
The Clippers staged the largest comeback in playoff history, rallying from a 31-point deficit.

From wire reports

SPURS VS. NUGGETS

For Playoff Pop, mum's the word

MIKE FINGER
Commentary



David Zalubowski / Associated Press

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich acknowledges that he has to tackle his job a bit differently in the playoffs than he does in the regular season.

DENVER – Decades from now, Zach Ruebesam and Henry Aldous will remember Monday morning. They hope they will have basketball teams of their own by then. Perhaps one of them will be in the NBA.

And should Ruebesam or Aldous find themselves coaching in the middle of a playoff series, with prying reporters pressing them for answers about lineups and adjustments, they undoubtedly will recall one image in particular:

The winningest coach in NBA history, looking right at both of the young University of Denver assistants, holding his forefinger to his lips.

"Don't say a word," Gregg Popovich told them.

This, as much as anything else they heard, was an essential lesson from Playoff Pop. At this time of year, don't tell anyone any more than you absolutely need to.

Time of the season

Monday was a big morning at Gates Field House. The Denver men's basketball team had an offseason workout. Afterward, the Pioneers cleared out of their gym to make way for the Spurs, who needed a place to practice between Games 1 and 2 of their first-round series against the Nuggets.

More than 40 years ago, while Popovich was working an assistant at the Air Force Academy, he earned a master's degree in physical education and sports sciences at Denver. When Popovich greeted the staff upon his arrival Monday, he made a point of chatting up Ruebesam (the Pioneers' director of player development) and Aldous (a graduate manager).

"It was awesome," Aldous said. "He asked us who we were, we told him we're getting our master's degrees from here like he did, and we just talked about that connection."

When Popovich noticed the two assistants talking to a nosy columnist and made the "don't say a word" comment, he followed it with a smile. But as per usual with the Spurs coach, what might have sounded like a joke contained plenty of truth, too.

Among those who currently populate the San Antonio roster, Patty Mills understands this better than anyone. Over the years, he has learned to expect the annual arrival of Playoff Pop, and Mills said Monday that there is no doubt that coach is officially back now.

"That's the real Pop to me," Mills said. "It's when you can really feel what he's saying, and he's making everyone accountable. It's about being focused."

Even from the outside, that subtle change in focus can be apparent, and it has been that way for most of the Spurs' run of 22 consecutive playoff appearances. Popovich seldom is forthcoming about company secrets, but in the regular season he can be counted on to crack a joke or two at most media sessions and provide occasionally detailed answers about team-building or coaching philosophy or the world at large.

In the playoffs, not so much. Questions he might indulge with extended responses in December or January get cut off quickly once April rolls around, and Mills said the change in tone isn't limited to Popovich's interaction with the media.

"It's the same way, to a degree, with us," Mills said. "It's 'This is business time.' "

Playoff Pop, to his credit, acknowledges that he has to tackle his job a bit differently than the regular-season version of himself. For most of the year, he rarely concerns himself with scouting reports of opponents, preferring instead to focus on his team and ensure it improves from one week to the next. January Pop doesn't much care if the Rockets go small, or if the Jazz go big. At that time of year, it's not the point.

Close to the best time

But once the Spurs are in a series like their current one against the Nuggets, when adjustments are paramount and a team has to not only react to what its adversary just did but also anticipate what it might do next, the job changes for the coach whose 1,413 combined regular-season and playoff victories just pushed him past Lenny Wilkens for the most in NBA history.

"Playoff time, when you have a specific opponent, you bear down and figure things out," Popovich said.

That always has been the case, but Mills said the transformation has been more evident this season. With a roster comprised largely of newcomers, Popovich had to ease his way into his playoff personality. Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan were accustomed to Playoff Pop. To DeMar DeRozan and Derrick White, he's still a bit new.

"Watching him through that this season, figuring out when to be himself, and when not to be, that's been interesting to watch," Mills said.

The first time this team saw a hint of it, Mills said, was in the Spurs' first team meeting after the All-Star break. It was then that Popovich made it clear that everybody in the locker room was going to be held accountable for everything they did the rest of the way, and he was candid about what he expected.

His team lost three games in a row on the road, and Mills said, "he had to dial it back again."

But if the Spurs weren't ready for Playoff Pop then, they are now. In Saturday's Game 1, the Nuggets looked overwhelmed by the moment. Even if the Spurs didn't play well down the stretch, they knew how to react.

"We could all sense it," Mills said. "We could all feel it. We all understood it."

Decades from now, a couple of coaches might recall a Monday morning conversation and understand the same thing, even if they know better than to say a word.

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TIGER

From page C1

man, amateur Bobby Jones in 1930, has managed it.

Woods, 43, has come exquisitely close. He claimed the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship in 2000 and the Masters in 2001 for what became known as the "Tiger Slam."

The next two majors are at courses on which Woods has a proven track record of success.

The PGA Championship will take place next month at Bethpage Black on Long Island, site of Woods' wire-to-wire victory at the 2002 U.S. Open (he also tied for sixth when the tournament returned there in 2009).

The U.S. Open is in June at Pebble Beach in California, where Woods won the 2000 tournament by a record 15 strokes – and where he also won the annual PGA Tour event the same year. If Woods is going to chase the great white whale of golf records, he couldn't ask for more inviting seas.

During a 11-year major title drought that was exacerbated by injuries and ignominy, Woods needed to be in contention on the back nine in the final round a couple of times before he broke through. His first tests came at last year's final two majors, and Woods acquitted himself well, sharing sixth place at the British Open and finishing second at the PGA Championship.

"The 15th was always going to be the hardest," said Rickie Fowler, 30, who joined the PGA Tour in 2010 and had seen Woods win nine tour titles before Sunday.

But two of the golfers who finished one stroke behind Woods – Xander Schauffele, 25, and Koepka, 28 – joined the tour after Woods' last dominant season, his five-title haul in 2013. Of Woods' 81 tour victories, one shy of tying Sam Snead's career mark, they experienced only the 2018 Tour Championship up close and personal.

And yet, if anything, they seemed energized, not enervated, by their head-to-head battle with Woods.

"It's what I saw as a kid," Schauffele said.

Schauffele and Koepka are too young to have been demoralized by Woods in his peak years. They saw his name at the top of the leader board Sunday, and they rejoiced.

David Cannon / Getty Images

Tiger Woods will be swinging for the fences this year after winning the Masters. In the past three majors, his worst finish is sixth.

"You want to play against the best to ever play, you want to go toe-to-toe with them," Koepka said.

He added: "I enjoy the battle. I enjoy everything that goes on with it. He got the better of me this time and it's fun and I'm sure he's ecstatic about it, but hopefully there will be more."

Even with the depth in the men's game, do you really want to bet against Woods?

In the past three majors, his worst finish is a sixth, and if you calculate his average finish, he has fared slightly better than Italy's Francesco Molinari (tie for fifth, tie for sixth, win) and much better than Koepka, who won the PGA Championship but finished outside the top 30 at last year's British Open.

Justin Thomas? He has a tie for 12th, a tie for sixth and a missed cut. Schauffele? He has two second-place ties but finished outside the top-30 at the PGA Championship.

"My last three major championships have been pretty good," Woods said, "so that in itself gives me a lot of confidence going down the road."

Woods rarely played more than two tour events – if that – between majors during his prime, so this year's schedule, which is compressed to facilitate a Labor Day finish, shouldn't pose a problem.

First bet pays off

The man who won a record-setting $1.2 million payout for betting that Tiger Woods would win the Masters was a first-time sports bettor who day-tripped into Las Vegas from Wisconsin.

James Adducci, 39, flew in April 9 to make the $85,000 wager and then flew right back home, according to William Hill Plc, which took the bet. Woods, who was given 14-1 odds at the time of the bet, clinched his victory Sunday.

Adducci was presented with a check Monday for $1.28 million, representing the payoff plus his original $85,000 stake. He placed the wager at the SLS Las Vegas casino.

AROUND SPORTS

Zion decides he's ready for NBA

DURHAM, N.C. – **Zion Williamson** is leaving Duke after one high-flying season to enter the NBA draft.

Widely projected as the top overall pick in the June draft, the Associated Press national player of the year announced his decision Monday.

The 6-7, 285-pound Williamson captivated all of college basketball with his freakish, once-in-a-generation athleticism, his energy at both ends of the floor and his omnipresent charisma.

The Atlantic Coast Conference player and rookie of the year averaged 22.6 points – tied for the league lead with teammate **RJ Barrett** – and 8.9 rebounds. Along the way, he became the face of college basketball this season, routinely coming up with at least one highlight-reel play or show-stopping dunk per game.

Williamson joins **Cam Reddish** and Barrett as classmates headed to the pros after one season. Point guard Tre Jones says he will return to school for his sophomore year.

Also making the announcement that they were entering the NBA draft were Gonzaga forward **Rui Hachimura** and Virginia guards **De'Andre Hunter** and **Ty Jerome**.

Duke's Zion Williamson is expected to be the first player taken in the NBA draft.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Cinco Ranch's Clayton retiring

Don Clayton, the only football coach Cinco Ranch High School has known, said he is retiring.

Clayton, 62, informed his team of his plans to retire Monday morning, a day before the start of spring practice. His retirement is effective at the end of the school year.

Clayton has been a coach for 38 years, and 20 of them have been at Cinco Ranch, starting in 1999 when the Katy ISD school opened. He also has served as athletic director during that time.

"It was time," Clayton said. "Family and four grandbabies about two and under. I thought, 'Well, there's more family time and more things to do.' So, I felt like we've done some good things here, and it was time to turn it over to somebody else. Let them take it and run."

The Texas High School Coaches Association 2017 Hall of Honor inductee went 141-78 at Cinco Ranch, leading the Cougars to the playoffs 13 times. He led Cinco Ranch to the state semifinals in 2009 and 2016.

PRO BASKETBALL

Kings introduce Walton as coach

The Sacramento Kings made it official, introducing **Luke Walton** as their coach, just days after the Los Angeles Lakers parted ways with him following three losing seasons.

Sacramento fired coach **Dave Joerger** on Thursday after a 39-43 finish that was the best record for the franchise in 13 years, while Walton was dismissed in Los Angeles a day later when he failed to get the Lakers into the postseason in the first year with **LeBron James**.

Kings general manager **Vlade Divac** met with Walton on Saturday, and the two sides quickly came to the agreement that was formally announced Monday.

Walton, 39, was 98-148 in three years with Los Angeles in his first full-time head coaching job. He was 37-45 this season and was unable to make the playoffs.

PRO HOCKEY

Vigneault handed Flyers' mission

The Philadelphia Flyers hired **Alain Vigneault** as head coach, hoping the veteran can help lead them to their first Stanley Cup since 1975.

Vigneault has led the New York Rangers and Vancouver Canucks to the Stanley Cup Final and takes over a team that missed the playoffs for the second time in three seasons. Philadelphia general manager **Chuck Fletcher** made his first big move since he was hired in November after **Ron Hextall** was fired. Fletcher fired coach **Dave Hakstol** a month later and replaced him with interim coach **Scott Gordon**.

The Flyers went 37-37-8 for 82 points this season and have not reached the second round of the playoffs since 2012. They last played in the Stanley Cup Final in 2010.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

TD Club to host Tech coach Wells

First-year Texas Tech football coach **Matt Wells** will speak to the Touchdown Club of Houston at noon Wednesday.

Tickets to the event at the Bayou City Event Center at 9401 Knight Road can be purchased online at touchdownclub.org. For more information, call 713-849-9860.

From staff and wire reports

NHL PLAYOFFS

Granlund powers Predators by Stars

DALLAS – Mikael Granlund scored on a wrist shot from just inside the blue line with 8:19 left, and the Nashville Predators, after blowing a two-goal lead, beat the Dallas Stars 3-2 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference playoff series.

Rocco Grimaldi scored in his second game in a row for Nashville, and Filip Forsberg had a perfectly timed play for a goal.

Pekka Rinne made 40 saves for Nashville.

AVALANCEH 6, FLAMES 2

Nathan MacKinnon scored twice in the first period and set up newly signed rookie Cale Makar's first NHL goal in his debut as Colorado routed Calgary at Denver to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

MacKinnon had two power-play goals, but the goal of the night was turned in by Makar, the 20-year-old defenseman who was signed Sunday and jumped into the Avalanche's postseason lineup two days after his college season ended when Massachusetts lost in the NCAA title game.

Makar, who grew up a Flames fan in Calgary, was the fourth overall pick by Colorado in 2017.

HURRICANES 5 CAPITALS 0

Rookie forward Warren Foegele had two goals and an assist, and Petr Mrazek earned his fourth career postseason shutout as Carolina won its first home playoff game in a decade

MAPLE LEAFS 3, BRUINS 2

Auston Matthews scored his first goal of the playoffs and set up another as Toronto beat visiting Boston to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference quarterfinal.

Less than an hour before puck drop, Toronto learned center Nazem Kadri was suspended for the rest of the series for his vicious cross-check to the head of Boston winger Jake DeBrusk in the third period of Game 2.

THORNTON TO SIT A GAME

San Jose center Joe Thornton was suspended for one playoff game for a hit to the head of Vegas' Tomas Nosek.

The NHL's Department of Player Safety said that Thornton's hit on Nosek in Game 3 was avoidable and that the head was "clearly the main point of contact." That led to the decision to suspend Thornton for Game 4 on Tuesday night at Las Vegas.

From wire reports

SCOREBOARD

Lottery winning numbers

TEXAS

Lotto: 4/13	1-4-10-14-15-26
Estimated jackpot:	$15.75 million
Winning tickets:	1. in Houston
Next jackpot 4/17	$5 million
Pick 3 morn: 4/15	6-1-4 Sum: 11
Pick 3 day:	8-9-2 Sum: 19
Pick 3 even.:	5-0-0 Sum: 5
Pick 3 night:	0-3-2 Sum: 5
Daily 4 morn: 4/15	8-2-6-4 Sum: 20
Daily 4 day:	7-7-2-2 Sum: 18
Daily 4 even:	8-3-7-7 Sum: 25
Daily 4 night:	0-5-6-7 Sum: 18
Cash 5: 4/15	4-7-8-26-32
Two Step: 4/15	19-21-30-33
Bonus Ball:	32

POWERBALL

Powerball 4/13	4-17-26-32-49
Powerball:	10
Estimated jackpot:	$101 million
Winning tickets	None
Next jackpot 4/17	$118 million

MEGA MILLIONS

MEGA: 4/12	1-24-25-40-70
Mega Ball:	4
Megaplier:	2
Estimated jackpot	$140 million
Winning tickets:	None
Next jackpot 4/16	$157 million

America's Line

Home team capitalized

MLB

American League

Favorite	Pts	Underdog
YANKEES	8½	Red Sox
RAYS	8	Orioles
TWINS	8½	Blue Jays
Angels	10½	RANGERS
White Sox	9	Royals
Astros	8½	ATHLETICS
MARINERS	8	Indians

National League

Favorite	Pts	Underdog
PHILLIES	9	Mets
NATIONALS	8	Giants
Cubs	8	MARLINS
BRAVES	8	Diamondbacks
BREWERS	9	Cards
PADRES	7	Rockies
DODGERS	8½	Reds

InterLeague

Favorite	Pts	Underdog
Pirates	8	TIGERS

NBA

Favorite	Pts	Underdog
RAPTORS	9	Magic
NUGGETS	6½	Spurs
BLAZERS	2	Thunder

Colleges

Baseball

Baseball America Top 25

	Record	Prv
1. UCLA	27-6	1
2. Stanford	24-5	2
3. Mississippi St.	31-6	5
4. Georgia	29-8	3
5. Oregon St.	25-8-1	7
6. Vanderbilt	27-9	6
7. Louisville	28-8	20
8. UC Santa Barbara	27-5	19
9. North Carolina St.	29-8	4
10. Arkanasas	26-10	8
11. Texas A&M	27-10	14
12. East Carolina	25-10	10
13. Georgia Tech	24-12	18
14. Arizona St.	27-7	13
15. LSU	24-13	12
16. Texas Tech	23-11	11
17. North Carolina	27-10	21
18. Mississippi	25-12	15
19. Baylor	24-10	25
20. Texas	23-15	9
21. UC Irvine	21-9	16
22. TCU	22-12	23
23. Clemson	25-11	17
24. Auburn	24-12	15
25. West Virginia	22-13	–

High schools

Soccer

Playoffs

State semifinals

At Georgetown

Boys

Class 6A

Elsik vs. Lewisville Flower Mound
5 p.m. Friday
College Park vs. San Antonio Lee
7:30 p.m. Friday

Class 5A

El Paso Bel Air vs. Pharr Valley View
5 p.m. Thursday
Frisco Wakeland vs. Sharpstown
7:30 p.m. Thursday

Class 4A

Palestine vs. San Elizario
4 p.m. Wednesday
Canyon Lake vs. Midlothian Heritage
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Girls

Class 6A

Southlake Carroll vs. Lake Travis
9:30 a.m. Friday
Allen vs. Tompkins
Noon Friday

Class 5A

Highland Park vs. Kingwood Park
9:30 a.m. Thursday
Mansfield Legacy vs. Dripping Springs
Noon Thursday

Class 4A

Stephenville vs. Lumberton
11 a.m. Wednesday
Melissa vs. Liberty Hill
1:30 p.m. Wednesday

Hockey

NHL

Playoff glance

First Round

Note: Best-of-7; x-if necessary.

Eastern Conference

Tampa Bay vs. Columbus

Blue Jackets lead series 3-0

Game 1: Columbus 4, Tampa Bay 3
Game 2: Columbus 5, Tampa Bay 1
Game 3: Columbus 3, Tampa Bay 1
Game 4: at Columbus; 6 p.m. today
Game 5: at Tampa Bay; TBA Friday-x
Game 6: at Columbus; TBA Sunday-x
Game 7: at Tampa Bay; TBA April 23-x

Boston vs. Toronto

Maple Leafs lead series 2-1

Game 1: Toronto 4, Boston 1
Game 2: Boston 4, Toronto 1
Game 3: Toronto 3, Boston 2
Game 4: at Toronto; 6 p.m. Wednesday
Game 5: at Boston; TBA Friday
Game 6: at Toronto; TBA Sunday-x
Game 7: at Boston; TBA April 23-x

Washington vs. Carolina

Capitals lead series 2-1

Game 1: Washington 4, Carolina 2
Game 2: Washington 4, Carolina 3 (OT)
Game 3: Carolina 5, Washington 0
Game 4: at Carolina; 6 p.m. Thursday
Game 5: at Washington; TBA Saturday-x
Game 6: at Carolina; TBA April 22-x
Game 7: at Washington; TBA April 24-x

New York Islanders vs. Pittsburgh

Islanders lead series 3-0

Game 1: New York 4, Pittsburgh 3 (OT)
Game 2: New York 3, Pittsburgh 1
Game 3: New York 4, Pittsburgh 1
Game 4: at Pittsburgh, 6:30 p.m. today
Game 5: at New York; TBA Thursday-x
Game 6: at Pittsburgh, TBA Saturday-x
Game 7: at New York; TBA April 22-x

Western Conference

Nashville vs. Dallas

Predators lead series 2-1

Game 1: Dallas 3, Nashville 2
Game 2: Nashville 2, Dallas 1 (OT)
Game 3: Nashville 3, Dallas 2
Game 4: at Dallas; 7 p.m. Wednesday
Game 5: at Nashville; TBA Saturday
Game 6: at Dallas; TBA April 22-x
Game 7: at Nashville; TBA April 24-x

Winnipeg vs. St. Louis

Blues lead series 2-1

Game 1: St. Louis 2, Winnipeg 1
Game 2: St. Louis 4, Winnipeg 3
Game 3: Winnipeg 6, St. Louis 3
Game 4: at St. Louis; 8:30 p.m. today
Game 5: at Winnipeg; TBA Thursday-x
Game 6: at St. Louis; TBA Saturday-x
Game 7: at Winnipeg; TBA April 22-x

Calgary vs. Colorado

Avalanche lead series 2-1

Game 1: Calgary 4, Colorado 0
Game 2: Colorado 3, Calgary 2 (OT)
Game 3: Colorado 6, Calgary 2
Game 4: at Colorado; 9 p.m. Wednesday
Game 5: at Calgary; TBA Friday-x
Game 6: at Colorado; TBA Sunday-x
Game 7: at Calgary; TBA April 23-x

San Jose vs. Vegas

Golden Knights lead series 2-1

Game 1: San Jose 5, Vegas 2
Game 2: Vegas 5, San Jose 3
Game 3: Vegas 6, San Jose 3
Game 4: at Vegas; 9:30 p.m. today
Game 5: at San Jose; TBA Thursday
Game 6: at Vegas; TBA Sunday-x
Game 7: at San Jose; TBA April 23-x

Rugby

Major League Rugby

	W	L	D	PD	TD	BP	Pts
New Orleans	8	2	0	77	11	11	43
Seattle	7	3	0	78	13	9	37
San Diego	7	2	1	84	11	6	36
Glendale	5	3	2	38	7	9	33
New York	7	2	0	59	10	4	32
Toronto	4	5	0	22	0	8	24
Houston	2	7	0	-146	-23	3	11
Utah	1	7	1	-87	-10	4	10
Austin	0	10	0	-125	-19	4	4

Note: Four points for a win, 2 points for a draw. One bonus point for losing by seven points or fewer, one bonus point for scoring four tries or more.
Sunday's results
San Diego 29, United New York 19
Austin at Toronto, ppd.
Saturday, April 20
Glendale vs. San Diego, 4 p.m.
Utah vs. United NewYork, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 21
Houston vs. Toronto, 1 p.m.
New Orleans vs. Seattle, 9 p.m.

Soccer

MLS

East	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	4	1	2	14	12	7
Columbus	4	2	1	13	7	5
Montreal	3	2	2	11	8	11
Toronto FC	3	1	1	10	14	8
Philadelphia	3	3	1	10	9	9
Orlando City	2	3	2	8	11	13
Cincinnati	2	3	2	8	8	10
Chicago	1	2	3	6	8	10
Atlanta	1	2	2	5	4	6
New York City FC	0	1	5	5	7	11
New York	1	3	2	5	8	8
New England	1	5	1	4	5	12

West	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	6	0	1	19	21	5
Seattle	5	0	1	16	14	5
LA Galaxy	5	1	0	15	11	6
Houston	4	0	1	13	12	6
FC Dallas	4	2	1	13	12	8
Minnesota United	3	2	1	10	14	11
Sporting K.C.	2	1	3	9	14	7
Real Salt Lake	2	4	1	7	7	14
San Jose	1	5	0	3	6	16
Vancouver	0	4	2	2	5	10
Colorado	0	5	2	2	11	19
Portland	0	5	1	1	6	17

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Sunday's result
New York 2, Sporting Kansas City 2
Wednesday's game
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Friday's games
Real Salt Lake at Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
Minnesota United at Toronto FC, 7 p.m.
Houston at LA Galaxy, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Colorado at Chicago, noon
Montreal at Philadelphia, noon
Vancouver at Orlando City, 2 p.m.
FC Dallas at Atlanta, 3 p.m.
New York at New England, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at San Jose, 9 p.m.

NWSL

Sunday's results
Portland 2, Orlando 0
Houston 1, Reign FC 1
Wednesday's game
North Carolina at Orlando, 6 p.m.

Tennis

ATP Tour Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters

Monday at Monaco

Singles

First round
Daniil Medvedev (10), Russia, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-1, 6-1.
Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, def. John Millman, Australia, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.
Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, def. Nikoloz Basilashvili (12), Georgia, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1.
Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Malek Jaziri, Tunisia, 6-4, 6-4.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Denis Shapovalov (15), Canada, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.
Marco Cecchinato (11), Italy, def. Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 4-0 retired.
Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-1, 6-3.
Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-3, 6-4.
Fabio Fognini (13), Italy, def. Andrey Rublev, Russia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.
David Goffin (16), Belgium, def. Guido Andreozzi, Argentina, 6-1, 6-4.
Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Lucas Catarina, Monaco, 6-0, 6-3.
Martin Klizan, Slovakia, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 7-6 (3), 7-5.
Radu Albot, Moldova, def. Aljaz Bedene, Slovenia, 6-4, 6-2.
Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, def. Kyle Edmund (17), Britain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Transactions

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX: Optioned RHP Marcus Walden to Pawtucket (IL).
CLEVELAND INDIANS: Sent SS Francisco Lindor to Columbus (IL) for a rehab assignment. Activated 2B Jason Kipnis from the 10-day IL. Designated INF Brad Miller.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS: Placed LHP Tyler Skaggs on 10-day IL, retroactive to April 13. Optioned 3B Taylor Ward to Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled RHPs Jaime Barria and John Curtiss from Salt Lake.
MINNESOTA TWINS: Sent RHP Matt Magill to Rochester (IL) for a rehab assignment.
SEATTLE MARINERS: Placed LHP Wade LeBlanc on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Erik Swanson from Tacoma (PCL). Traded C David Freitas to Milwaukee for RHP Sal Biasi.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS: Optioned INF Lourdes Gurriel Jr. to Buffalo (IL). Selected the contract and INF Eric Sogard. Transferred LHP Ryan Borucki to the 60-day IL.

National League

COLORADO ROCKIES: Selected the contract of C Drew Butera from Albuquerque (PCL). Recalled OF Noel Cuevas from Albuquerque. Reinstated RHP Antonio Senzatela from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Yency Almonte and OF Yonathan Daza to Albuquerque. Placed C Chris Iannetta on the 10-day IL.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS: Activated LHP Clayton Kershaw from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Jaime Schultz to Oklahoma City (PCL).
NEW YORK METS: Recalled RHP Drew Gagnon from Syracuse (IL). Optioned INF Luis Guillorme to Syracuse.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES: Placed RHP David Robertson on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Drew Anderson from Lehigh Valley (IL).

BASKETBALL

SACRAMENTO KINGS: Named Luke Walton coach.

FOOTBALL

CAROLINA PANTHERS: Re-signed DT Kyle Love to a one-year contract.
CHICAGO BEARS: Signed LB Isaiah Irving and DE Roy Robertson-Harris.
GREEN BAY PACKERS: Claimed K Sam Ficken off waivers from Seattle.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS: Signed WRs Marcus Johnson and Chester Rogers and S Matthias Farley.
LOS ANGELES RAMS: Re-signed S Blake Countess, DE Morgan Fox, DBs Dominique Hatfield and Kevin Peterson and WRs KhaDarel Hodge and JoJo Natson.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS: Signed S Anthony Harris, OT Rashod Hill, QB Sean Mannion and WR Jordan Taylor.
NEW YORK GIANTS: Resigned WR Russell Shepard.
OAKLAND RAIDERS: Re-signed WR Mitchell Ateman, K Daniel Carlson and OT Justin Murray.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: Reinstated DL Cedric Thornton from the reserve/retired list. Signed DB Greg Mabin.

HOCKEY

NHL: Suspended Toronto F Nazem Kadri for the remainder of the first round for cross-checking Boston F Jake DeBrusk in the head.
BUFFALO SABRES: Signed D Jacob Bryson to a three-year entry level contract.
DETROIT RED WINGS: Agreed to terms with G Filip Larsson on a three-year, entry-level contract.
NEW YORK RANGERS: Fired Hartford (AHL) coach Keith McCambridge. Declined to exercise the 2019-20 contract option on Hartford assistant coach Joe Mormina.
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS: Named Alain Vigneault coach.

COLLEGE

DUKE: Freshman F Zion Williamson declared for the NBA draft.
GONZAGA: Junior F Rui Hachimura declared for the NBA draft.
LOUISVILLE: Announced freshmen women's basketball G Elizabeth Balogun and F Elizabeth Dixon are transferring from Georgia Tech and sophomore F Kianna Smith is transferring from California.
VIRGINIA: Junior G Ty Jerome and sophomore G De'Andre Hunter have declared for the NBA draft.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Boys

Ulises Reyes, Sharpstown

Notable: Reyes recorded a hat trick in the Region III-5A final against Kingwood Park. His final two goals came in the second half of the Apollos' 4-3 win.. His second-half goals also came with the Apollos down to 10 men.

What coach Greg Boles said: "Ulises is a very creative winger who likes the challenge of breaking down defenses. He is like a son to me, so seeing him taking the responsibility to score those goals made me so proud."

Reyes

Williams

Other nominees

Ryan Schoppe, La Porte: Won the 3,200-meter title in District 21-6A with a time of 9 minutes, 13.28 seconds, 32 seconds faster than the runner-up. Schoppe is the defending 3,200 state champion. He also won the 1,600 title in 4:12.42, winning by 14 seconds.

Axel Hevener, College Park: Scored a goal and assisted on the game-winning goal in a 2-1 victory over Aldine to win the Region II-6A title.

Luke Tiedtke, Kingwood Park: Scored a hat trick in a 3-1 win over Goose Creek Memorial in the Region III-5A semifinals after being down 1-0 at halftime. He also had two goals in a losing effort to Sharpstown in the regional final.

Edgar Renteria, Elsik: Scored the game-winning goal with 7:20 left to complete a comeback from a 2-0 deficit to the give defending state champion Rams a 3-2 win over Spring Woods in the Region III-6A final.

Girls

Aerial Williams, Hastings

Notable: Williams swept all three sprinting events at the District 23-6A track and field meet. Her times were 12.26 seconds in the 100-meter dash, 25.12 seconds in the 200 and 55.6 seconds in the 400.

What coach Earl Spottsville said: "Winning all three open sprint races in a very competitive 6A district is very difficult to do. She didn't steal the show, she was the show."

Other nominees

Allie Byrd, Kingwood Park: Scored both goals in a 2-1 win over Pflugerville for the team's second straight Region III-5A title. Also had a hat trick in a 6-3 win over Port Neches-Groves in the regional semifinal.

Skylar Parker, Tompkins: Scored the game-winning penalty kick to keep the Falcons undefeated and send them to the program's second state tournament.

Jenelle Dumais, Kingwood: Scored off a corner kick in a 3-0 shutout of Cinco Ranch in the Region II-6A semifinals. She also scored in the regional final against Tompkins.

Peter Scamardo

STAR

HOUSTON CHRONICLE • TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 • SECTION D ★★

Photos by Melissa Phillip / Staff photographer

The renovation of the master bedroom in this Heights bungalow involved removing a wall to create a larger space, refinishing all of the millwork, adding a built-in closet and a dramatic coffered ceiling.

The ceiling's the limit

Coffered treatment gives master bedroom unique style

By Diane Cowen
STAFF WRITER

Etna and Randall Neighbour had painstakingly worked their way through their Heights bungalow, restoring and updating each room.

So in the summer of 2017 it was time to address the master bedroom. They didn't have enough closet space, and the room was cramped, filled with a king-size bed and big dressers. It was dark, too, with natural light from the windows on the side of the home supplemented by light from a pair of table lamps.

Behind the master bedroom was a small nursery-size room that had been added onto the back of the historic home sometime after it was moved to the Heights from its original home in the Aldine area.

Their plan was to take down the wall between the bedroom and nursery to create a single larger room, add built-in closets to an interior wall, replace the aging windows and carpet and create an elaborate showstopper: a coffered ceiling treatment.

ONE ROOM

"Look around, there are brand-new houses on my street, and I don't want a builder bulldozing my house," Randall said. "I wanted to do whatever I could to make my house so attractive and cute and unique that no one would ever want to bulldoze it, and I could sell it. We don't want anyone messing up all of our hard work."

He contacted five contrac-

Bedroom continues on D6

Randall and Etna Neighbour play with their dogs, Ladybug and Junebug, in their renovated master bedroom.

'Homecoming' is pure Beyoncé

By Joey Guerra
STAFF WRITER

Beyoncé's 2018 Coachella performances included more than 100 musicians and dancers, a Destiny's Child reunion and appearances by husband Jay-Z and sister Solange.

But the most powerful moment came when she was alone early in the first set. (She performed on two nights.) Standing atop a pyramid of bleachers in a yellow hoodie and fringed boots, a steely gaze in her eyes, there was no question that Beyoncé is the biggest pop star of our time.

"Coachella, y'all ready?" she asked. Even at the peak of her powers, she sounds like a Texas girl.

"Homecoming: A Film by Beyoncé," debuting Wednesday on Netflix, captures the creation of those historic performances. Beyoncé directed the documentary, which includes interviews and back-

Beyoncé continues on D6

Kevin Mazur / Getty Images for Coachella

Beyoncé's Coachella performance is the heart and soul of the Netflix film "Homecoming."

Reunions set stage for battle in 'GoT'

By Andrew Dansby
STAFF WRITER

"What are you doing out here?" Samwell Tarly asked Bran Stark near the end of Sunday night's "Game of Thrones," the premiere episode of the show's final season.

"Waiting for an old friend," Bran replied. That old friend arrived on horseback, pulled back his hood and revealed Jaime Lannister, of course.

In some ways, the eighth season premiere of "Game of Thrones" – which HBO says drew 17.4 million viewers either on TV or online, representing a season-opening high for the series – felt like the rubber of a slingshot pulled – a slow series of minor movements that would ultimately thrust the narrative forward.

There were no battles. No beheadings or even all that much death in general. A few arrows here, and a child dismembered there.

'Thrones' continues on D3

DEAR ABBY: Girl with Asperger's gets little attention from her dad. **PAGE D4**

HINTS FROM HELOISE: April is Autism Awareness Month. **PAGE D4**

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PUZZLES & TV

WORD SLEUTH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. ©2019 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Monday's unlisted clue: **-- FARM**

NUMBER.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: **RELATING TO THE SUN.**

Animal
Bought the
Collective
Dairy
Down on the
Factory
Family
Funny
Health
Server
Sheep
Sunnybrook
Tree
Truck
Wind

T R O E L I F Y C Z W T Q N K
I S E R V E R R K F C Z W U R
P M J H E I H O C C Z X U S Q
H T L A E H T T H G U O B N L
J G E L C Z X C N V T R F R P
N L J H A E C A E O A U T Y R
W V Y L I M A F T L N R P A N
L E K I G D I E C N L W L B Z
P E E H S U N N Y B R O O K X
W U S R R Y R I A D S P C D O
M L J I T G E D W B A Y X W U

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VUMEA

PLEOE

GOACCN

PLOJYA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answer here: _____ _____

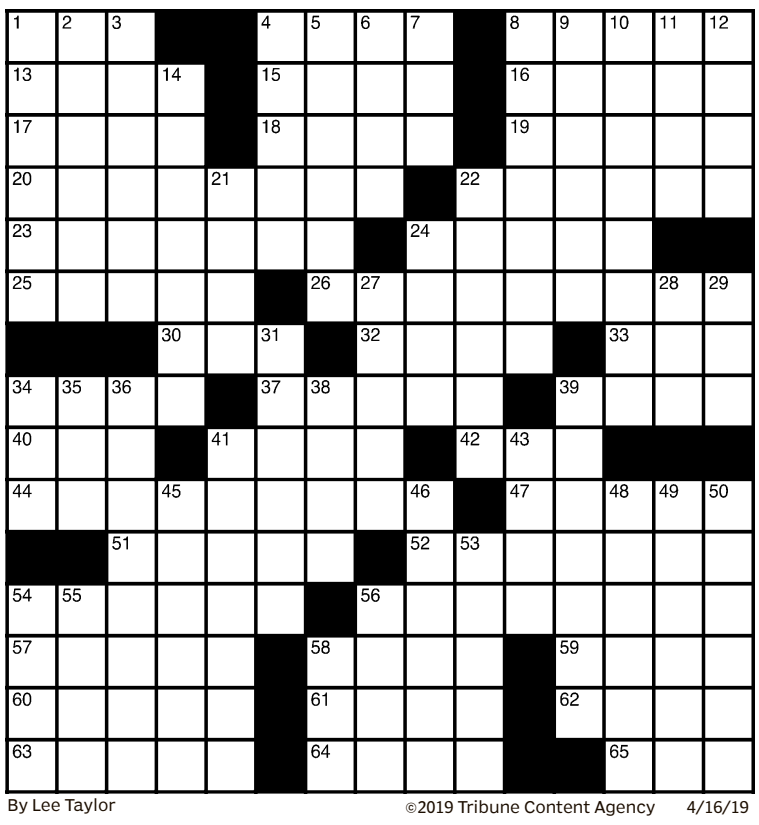
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXUDE TAKEN JIGSAW ISLAND
Answer: Filling in all the information on the Internal Revenue Service forms was — TAXING

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "The Big Bang Theory" network
4 Uncertain
8 Peek at someone else's test answers, say
13 River to the Caspian
15 Where to find a hero
16 Rental document
17 Opera songs for one
18 Part of
19 Ready for action
20 Farewell performance
22 Award-winning sci-fi author _ Ellison
23 Chess match finale
24 Summer camp craft
25 Neuter
26 Squinter's wrinkles
30 Done with employment: Abbr.
32 Cathedral recess
33 Go off course
34 Lively Irish dances
37 "Steppenwolf" writer Hermann
39 Lyre-playing emperor
40 "Much _ About Nothing"
41 Broadway partner of Rodgers
42 Reuben bread
44 Hidden danger
47 Honey-colored
51 Big rigs
52 Track's inside track
54 Songs of praise
56 Easy-peasy task
57 Sports stadium
58 Jellystone Park bear
59 Actor Miller of "Justice League"
60 Watchful period
61 Keen
62 Sets eyes on
63 Lawn-trimming targets
64 Ballpoints
65 Banned insecticide

DOWN
1 Used "colorful" language
2 "Doctor My Eyes" singer Jackson _
3 Light lunches
4 Strong suit or weak sauce
5 African desert fox
6 Criticize harshly
7 Yang complement
8 Purify
9 Find out about
10 Keen-sighted sort
11 Between ports
12 Seagull kin
14 Won't go away, as an odor
21 _-Coburg: former Bavarian duchy
22 Mooring rope
24 Foes of robbers
27 Many a reggae artist
28 Corn serving
29 Romantic dinner complement
31 "To clarify ... "
34 Quick punch
35 Swearing-in words
36 Big fat zero
38 Drops the ball
39 Formidable opponents
41 Church books with many notes
43 Sudden pull
45 Small skullcap
46 Connect to an outlet
48 Drank to excess
49 Hardened (to)
50 Dinner, say
53 Corrosive compounds
54 Cover with asphalt
55 Like the Mojave
56 Jackknifed into the pool, say
58 Chatter



By Lee Taylor

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. ©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

	9			8		7	2	
3					2			1
5		2				9		
	1		6		5			
9								7
			9		4		8	
		1				2		4
4			7					3
	8	7		6			5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/16

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CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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C A L ' S V A Z S K P L F S K B C X V - B X M E B R K P S B O A M X C R M E M X B M D D V N M X J B D A Z E P L J B L S P A L ? P S ' E X B - N M X F M O D B .

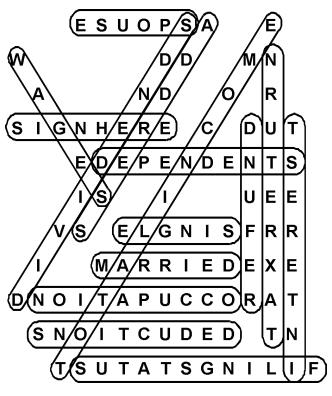
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals R

ANSWER: Don't you think the dry-erase whiteboard was a really marvelous invention? It's re-markable.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

4	9	6	8	1	2	7	3	5
5	8	7	3	4	9	1	2	6
2	3	1	6	5	7	9	8	4
3	6	4	5	7	8	2	1	9
8	7	5	2	9	1	4	6	3
1	2	9	4	6	3	8	5	7
7	4	3	1	8	5	6	9	2
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	4	1
6	1	2	9	3	4	5	7	8

IRS FORM 1040



L	O	P	S	■	H	A	S	I	D	■	M	I	N	G
E	R	I	E	■	E	L	E	N	A	■	O	V	A	L
S	E	A	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	■	M	I	C	A
S	O	F	T	S	O	A	P	■	A	M	B	E	R	S
■	■	■	E	P	I	C	■	A	B	R	A	D	E	S
C	R	I	T	I	C	A	L	M	A	S	S	■	■	■
H	O	R	S	E	■	■	O	A	S	■	A	S	P	S
E	P	A	■	S	W	A	T	T	E	D	■	K	E	A
R	E	Q	D	■	I	R	S	■	■	U	S	U	A	L
■	■	■	W	E	L	F	A	R	E	S	T	A	T	E
C	A	N	A	R	D	S	■	U	N	T	O	■	■	■
H	E	A	R	E	R	■	U	P	T	U	R	N	E	D
A	S	I	F	■	I	N	N	E	R	P	E	A	C	E
R	O	V	E	■	C	A	D	R	E	■	I	R	O	N
S	P	E	D	■	E	M	O	T	E	■	N	Y	N	Y

TV TONIGHT

Ⓜ movie Ⓢ sports (N) new programming (P) premiere (SP) season premiere (F) finale (SF) season finale (CC) - closed caption

04/16/19	COM	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
NBC 2	12	KPRC Channel 2 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N) (CC)	The Voice *Cross Battles Part One Results* (N) (CC)		The Village *Laid Bare* (N) (CC)		New Amsterdam *Five Miles West* (N) (CC)		Local 2 News at 10pm (N)	:35 The Tonight Show
PBS 8	8	PBS NewsHour (N) (CC)		Finding Your Roots *Southern Roots* (CC)		Reconstruction: Amer (N) (CC)		Reconstruction: Amer (N) (CC)		IndependentLens (CC)	
CBS 11	11	KHOU 11 News at 6 (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	NCIS *Hail & Farewell* (N) (CC)		FBI *Conflict of Interest* (N) (CC)		NCIS: New Orleans *Jackpot* (N) (CC)		KHOU 11 News at 10	:35 The Late Show
ABC 13	13	13 News at 6 p.m. (N) (CC)		American Housewife (N)	The Kids Are Alright (N)	Black-ish (N) (CC)	Bless This Mess (N) (P)	The Rookie *Free Fall* (N) (SF) (CC)		13 News at 10 p.m. (N)	:35 Jimmy Kimmel (CC)
TBN 14	14	Supernatural	Potter Touch	Praise (CC)		J.Prince	J. Cahn	Enjoying Life	Lead Way	Praise (CC)	
MyTV 20	4	Family Feud (N) (CC)	Family Feud (N) (CC)	Family Feud (CC)	Family Feud (CC)	Chicago P.D. *Justice* (CC)		Chicago P.D. *She's Got Us* (CC)		Big Bang Theory (CC)	Big Bang Theory (CC)
KLTJ 22	20	Jerry Savelle	John Hagee	Gospel Truth	Table Talk	Marcus and Joni Lamb		Joel Osteen (CC)		Faith	K. Copeland
FOX 26	9	Modern Family (CC)	Modern Family (CC)	MasterChef *Camp MasterChef* (N) (CC)		Mental Samurai *Week Five* (N) (CC)		FOX 26 News at 9 (N) (CC)		FOX 26: News Edge (N)	Fox26NewsIsiahFactor (N)
CW 39	5	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Flash *Godspeed* (N) (CC)		Roswell, New Mexico *Creep* (N) (CC)		Daily Mail TV (CC)	Daily Mail TV (CC)	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men
Uni. 45	10	La rosa de Guadalupe (CC)		Jesus		Doña Flor y Sus Dos		Por Amar Sin Ley		Noticias 45	NoticieroUni
Tel. 47	6	Exatlón (N) (CC)				Betty en NY (N) (CC)		Reina del sur Edicio (CC)		Noticiero (N)	:35 Titular.
ION 49	7	Criminal Mind (CC)		Criminal Mind (CC)		Criminal Mind (CC)		Criminal Mind (CC)		Private Eyes (CC)	
KUBE 57	53	King of Hill	King of Hill	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	The Game	The Game	This Minute	This Minute	King-Queens	Seinfeld
A&E	23	The First 48 (CC)		Hunting JonBenét's (CC)				JonBenet: The Truth *Her Father Speaks* (CC)			
AMC	57	4:30 Escape Plan ★★		Gran Torino ★★★ ('08) Christopher Carley, Clint Eastwood. (CC)					:35 Gran Torino ★★★ ('08) (CC)		
ANPL	42	North Woods Law (CC)		North Woods Law (N)		North Woods Law (N) (CC)		North Woods Law (CC)		North Woods Law (CC)	
AT&TSN	39	5:00 Ⓢ The Rich Eisen Show (CC)				Ⓢ Astros	Ⓢ Pre-game	Ⓢ MLB Baseball Houston vs Oakland (Live)			
BBC	226	Star Trek: Next Gen. (CC)		Galaxy Quest ★★ ('99) Tim Allen. (CC)				:15 Galaxy Quest ★★ ('99) Tim Allen. (CC)			
BET	46	5:30 National Security ★★ ('03) Steve Zahn. (CC)				:55 Blue Streak ★★★ ('99) Luke Wilson, Martin Lawrence. (CC)					:35 Martin
BRAVO	65	Beverly Hills (CC)		Beverly Hills (CC)		Beverly Hills (N) (CC)		Mexican Dynasties (N)		Watch (N)	Beverly Hills
CNBC	45	Ⓢ NHL Hockey Tampa Bay vs Columbus (Live)					Ⓢ NHL Hockey Winnipeg Jets at St. Louis Blues (CC) (Live)				
CNN	25	OutFront (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight (CC)		CNN Tonight (CC)	
COM	59	5:50 Office	:25 Office	Tosh.0 (CC)	Tosh.0 (CC)	Tosh.0 (CC)	Tosh.0 (CC)	Tosh.0 (N)	J. Jeff. (N)	Daily Show	:35 Tosh.0
DISC	29	Deadliest Catch Part One (N)		Deadliest Catch Part Two (N)		Deadly Catch *Super Swarm* (CC)				GoldRushTurinMine (N)	
DISN	41	Jessie (CC)	Jessie (CC)	Sydney Max	CoopCami	Jessie (CC)	Jessie (CC)	Sydney Max	CoopCami	Andi Mack	Raven's.
E!	44	E! News (N) (CC)		The Kardashians (CC)		The Waterboy ★★ ('98) Adam Sandler. (CC)				Tonight (N)	Movie
ESPN	33	Ⓢ SportsCenter Special		Ⓢ MatchUp	Rookie (N)	Ⓢ 30 for 30 *Seau* (N)				Ⓢ SportsCent. (N) (CC)	
ESPN2	34	Ⓢ NFLLive (CC)		Ⓢ Boxing Classics (CC)		Ⓢ Countd.	Ⓢ Knockout	Ⓢ Madden	Rookie (N)	Ⓢ Football (CC)	
FNC	38	The Story (CC)		Tucker Carlson (CC)		Hannity (CC)		Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	52	Chopped (CC)		Chopped Think Small! (CC)		Chopped (N) (CC)		Chopped (CC)		Chopped Web Stars (CC)	
FREE	32	4:30 Sweet Home Ala...		The Bold Type (N) (CC)		A Bug's Life ★★★ ('98) Dave Foley. (CC)				The 700 Club (CC)	
FSN	37	Ⓢ Spotlight	Ⓢ Pre-game	Ⓢ MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels at Texas Rangers - Arlington, Texas (CC) (Live)						Ⓢ Rangers	Ⓢ Insider
FX	31	4:30 Lucy	Split ★★★★ (2016, Horror) Anya Taylor-Joy, James McAvoy. (CC)					Fosse/ Verdon (N) (CC)		Fosse/ Verdon (CC)	
HALL	24	5:00 A Ring by Spring		Bottled With Love (") Bethany Joy Lenz. (CC)				Campfire Kiss ('17) Danica McKellar. (CC)			
HGTV	47	Fixer Upper (CC)		Fixer Upper (CC)		Restored (N)	Restored (N)	House Hunt.	House	House Hunt.	House Hunt.
HIST	58	Curse of Oak Island (CC)		Curse of Oak Island (N)		Curse of Oak Island (N)		:05 LostGoldofWorldWarII (N)		:05 Curse of Oak Island	
LIFE	40	Married/ First Sight (CC)		Social (N) (CC)		Married:LoveUnlocked (N) (CC)			:35 Married/ First Sight (CC)		
MSNBC	80	Hardball (N) (CC)		All In With C. Hayes (N)		Rachel Maddow (N) (CC)		The Last Word (N) (CC)		The 11th Hour (N) (CC)	
MTV	30	Teen Mom 2 (CC)		Double Shot PaulyVin *Double Trouble*				Catfish (CC)		Catfish (CC)	
NGEO	335	24h After Hiroshima		Inside/ Green Berets (CC)		Nazi (N) (P) (CC)		Superstructures (N) (P)		Nazi Pearl Harbor (CC)	
NICK	43	Loud House	H.Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Office	The Office	Friends (CC)	:35 Friends
OWN	66	Police Women/ Dallas		If Loving You/ Wrong (CC)		If Loving You/ Wrong (CC)		If Loving You/ Wrong (N)		If Loving You/ Wrong (CC)	
OXY	327	Accident, Suicide (CC)		Snapped (CC)		Snapped (CC)		Snapped: Killer Coup		Murder for Hire (CC)	
PRMT	48	Mom (CC)	Mom (CC)	John Wick ★★★★ ('14, Act) Adrianne Palicki, Keanu Reeves. (CC)					John Wick ★★★★ ('14) (CC)		
SYFY	60	Drive Angry ('11) Amber Heard, Nicolas Cage. (CC)				Limitless ★★ (2011, Mystery) Bradley Cooper. (CC)				Futurama	Futurama
TBS	51	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	Last O.G. (N)	Conan (N)	Last O.G.
TCM	169	4:30 The Sundowners		Gold Rush			:45 Gettysburg ★★★ (1994, War) Tom Berenger, Martin Sheen.				
TLC	63	Say Yes to the Dress (CC)		Little People (N)		Little People (N) (CC)		7 Little Johnstons (N) (CC)		Home Sextuplets (CC)	
TNT	36	4:30 Godzilla ★★ (CC)		Ⓢ NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Toronto Raptors (CC) (Live)					Ⓢ NBA Basketball Okl./Por. (Live)		
TOON	22	Gumball	BareBear	Samurai	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Bob Burgers	Bob Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	RickMort
TRAV	62	Expedition Unknown (CC)		Legendary Locations *International Riches* (N) (CC)				Legendary Locations (N)		Expedition Unknown (CC)	
TVLAND	346	:55 MASH	M*A*S*H	:05 Ray	:40 Ray	:15 Ray	:50 Two and a Half Men		:25 2½Men	King-Queens	King-Queens
USA	21	Modern Fam	Modern Fam	Ⓢ WWE Super Smackdown (CC)				Miz (N)	Chrisley (N)	Modern Fam	Modern Fam
WE	117	Law & Order Ego (CC)		Law & Order White Lie (CC)		Law & Order Whiplash (CC)		Law & Order (CC)		Law & Order (CC)	
WGN	54	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Last Man St.
HBO	444	Wyatt Cenac	News (N)	Collateral ★★ ('04) Jamie Foxx, Tom Cruise. (CC)				Barry (CC)	Game of Thrones		Veep (CC)
MAX	425	5:30 The House (CC)		Lost in America ★★ ('85) (CC)			:35 The Beverly Hillbillies ★★ (CC)			:10 Warrior (CC)	
SHO	474	5:35 Action	:35 The Help ★★★ (2011, Drama) Viola Davis, Emma Stone. (CC)					The Chi (CC)		Billions (CC)	
STARZ	410	:05 The Debt ★★★ ('11) Helen Mirren. (CC)				American Gods (CC)		:55 The Green Hornet ★★ ('11) Seth Rogen. (CC)			
STZ ENC	400	:20 Another 48 Hours ★★ ('90) Eddie Murphy. (CC)				I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry ★★ (CC)				Charlie Wilson's War	
SUND	398	Summer Rental ★★ ('85) Rip Torn, John Candy. (CC)				Planes, Trains and Automobiles ★★ ('87) (CC)				Summer Rental ★★	
TMC	488	Inglourious Basterds ★★★ ('09) Christoph Waltz, Brad Pitt. (CC)					:35 Black Hawk Down ★★ ('01, Act) Eric Bana, Josh Hartnett. (CC)				

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

When West overcalled two clubs, North had a hand worth a drive to game, but he took it slowly in case there was slam in the offing. His three-club call showed a limit raise or better; over his partner's discouraging three-heart call, he simply raised to game. South's other options would have been to temporize with a three-diamond call – a "last-train" bid passing the buck to his partner – to jump to game or to make a slam try himself.

The defenders led three rounds of clubs, allowing declarer to ruff. Before he continued, South assessed the position and determined that unless trumps were incredibly hostile, he would have no further problems. He led a trump to the ace, expecting that if anyone were void in hearts, it would be West; that would leave him with a marked finesse in trumps. To South's dismay, though, it was East who showed out. Can you identify declarer's best plan from here on in?

He next eliminated diamonds by playing the king and ace and ruffing the third. When West followed suit to all three rounds, it was clear he could hold no more than two spades. So South cashed the ace and king of spades and exited with a trump.

In the two-card ending, West had only clubs left to lead. Declarer could ruff in one hand and throw the losing spade from the other.

Note that with this trump holding, it never costs to start with the ace; if West has the length, you can never pick it up, no matter what you do.

NORTH 04-16-A
♠ K J 3
♥ A 8 5 4 3
♦ K 4
♣ 10 7 2

WEST
♠ 9 8
♥ Q 10 9
♦ Q J 8
♣ A K Q 9 8

EAST
♠ Q 10 6 5 4
♥ ---
♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A 7 2
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ A 10 6
♣ J 6

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	2 ♣	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
All pass			

Opening Lead: Club king

LEAD WITH THE ACES

South holds:
♠ A 7 2
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ A 10 6
♣ J 6

South	West	North	East
		2 NT	Pass
?			

ANSWER: Should you worry about ace-asking here? No – the likelihood that your side is missing two aces is infinitesimal. Instead, focus on getting to the right slam, and the way to do that is to transfer to hearts then jump to five no-trump to offer a choice of slams. If your partner prefers either diamonds or spades, you won't argue.

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LOOKING BACK

1862: During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia. The Confederacy conscripted all white men between the ages of 18 to 35.

1963: Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests.

BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Peter Mark Richman** is 92. Singer **Bobby Vinton** is 84. Basketball Hall of Famer **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** is 72. Actress **Ellen Barkin** is 65. Rock singer **David Pirner** (Soul Asylum) is 55. Rock musician **Dan Rieser** is 53. Actor **Peter Billingsley** is 48. Actor **Lukas Haas** is 43. Actress-singer **Kelli O'Hara** is 43. Actress **Claire Foy** (TV: "The Crown") is 35. Figure skater **Mirai Nagasu** is 26. Actress **Sadie Sink** is 17.

Q &A *With Maren Morris*

Talking Beyoncé, BTS and 'Beverly Hills'

By Joey Guerra
STAFF WRITER

Jamie Nelson

Maren Morris performs Thursday at the Revention Music Center.

Maren Morris
When: 7 p.m. Thursday
Where: Revention Music Center, 520 Texas
Tickets: Start at $40; 713-230-1600, reventionmusiccenter.com

Maren Morris sang about loving Hank Williams and Johnny Cash on gospel-infused breakout single "My Church." She teamed up with EDM stars Zedd and Grey for pop smash "The Middle." And she flirts with rock, R&B and pop on new album "Girl."

But no matter what she's singing, you can't take the Texas out of the girl.

"I sing, and I always have sung, like I'm from Arlington. I've always sung with a twang," Morris says. She performs Thursday at Revention Music Center.

"Even on 'The Middle,' there are words I say that I just can't get rid of the twang," she continues. "So it is what it is, and I just try to make music that's good. I don't really worry about the genre police."

Morris, like Kacey Musgraves and Sam Hunt, has carved a unique place for herself by confounding expectations. It's earned her a wide swath of fans, a Grammy, a CMA Award and a Radio Disney Music Award. And it feels like she's just getting started.

During a wide-ranging interview, Morris talked about taking risks, loving Beyoncé, BTS and "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" drama.

Q: What's been the biggest change since "The Middle" introduced you to a pop audience?

A: I feel like the diversity of the crowds this tour is even greater. It's not just all women or all men, all one color, one sexuality or age range, even. It's kind of a little bit of everything. It's really cool to see the chemistry of the crowd and the show change. Going into this record, and going into the production of it, made me think about which songs would really just slay live.

Q: "Girl" runs the gamut from country to pop to R&B. Is that a reflection of your personal tastes?

A: My favorite albums that I love listening to as a fan span so many genres and decades. I don't really have any limits when it comes to the sonics of an album. I want it to sound good in your car. I want it to sound beautiful on vinyl. It's just a vibe that I'm trying to create. I try to be really respectful of my roots in this genre, but I also don't want to be strangled by them, either. I'm young, and I'm evolving. I think that when you put a ceiling on a new artist like that, it's really detrimental because it makes them second guess every single song they're writing or performing.

Q: What comes to mind when you think of Houston?

A: I remember the biggest capacity I sold on my first headline tour for "Hero" was the Houston House of Blues. I just never thought that I'd be able to sell that many tickets. I was so floored. And obviously the rodeo is a big thing in Texas as well.

Q: I fully expected to see your name on this year's RodeoHouston lineup.

A: I don't think I could fit any more (expletive) into my year. But when they call me, I will be there.

Q: Speaking of Houston icons, you said in a Twitter Q&A that you'd love to collaborate with Beyoncé. What would that sound like?

A: Well, Beyoncé would definitely be having a dry spell if she was ever gonna collaborate with me. I loved her performance with the Dixie Chicks a couple of years ago at the CMAs when she did "Daddy Lessons" and they sang "Long Time Gone." I think it'd be cool to do some sort of dirty, R&B, bluegrass song with her.

Q: Favorite Beyoncé song?

A: Don't make me choose. The one that I always love listening to, because I just think it's so beautiful and such a perfect song, is the last one on "Lemonade" called "All Night." I actually covered that once before.

Q: Most recent TV binge?

A: I'm actually looking it up right now. There are so many. I feel like I'm always watching "The Office." I'm obsessed with the show "Veep." Definitely blew through all the new season of "Queer Eye" in like a day. I loved the "Narcos: Mexico" installment. I really just don't do anything with my day if I'm not performing. When my husband and I get off the road, all we do is just Netflix real hard.

Q: You're a huge "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" fan. Who's side are you taking in all the dog drama?

A: It's so hard because I love Lisa Vanderpump so much. She's my queen. But I did think it was a little weird that she's got employees that are very unprofessionally sharing gossip. I thought it was weird that she's kind of siding with them instead of her friends. I'm stubborn as (expletive) so I know what it's like to have it be so hard to apologize. The reason I end up siding with Teddy (Mellencamp) is she knows when to just say sorry and move on. Oh my gosh. I don't know these people at all but I get so invested. I feel like Denise Richards is the only sane one this season.

Q: What would your tagline be if you were a housewife?

A: I have a friend that actually is way better at this than I am. His is, "I don't just stir the pot, I smoke it." I feel like I would love to have that one as mine.

Q: You've also admitted to being obsessed with Korean boy band BTS.

A: They have so many music videos, and they are all, like, multimillion dollar looking productions and they are amazing dancers. It's a weird phenomenon that you can get sucked into really easily. I would love to go to Seoul and dive into that whole culture. I remember when I sang with Dolly (Parton) on the Grammys, I watched a video back and they were jamming out to "Jolene." It was so sweet.

Q: What celebrity meeting made you the most starstruck?

A: I was really, really scared to meet Elton John. I had no reason to be, because he had already been so sweet to me on the phone and a public fan of my work. But I was so scared to meet him because you've just grown up seeing this icon on TV your whole life. I think the only other person that I've been starstruck by was probably JLo at the Grammys a couple years ago. She came up to me backstage after I performed my song "Once" with Alicia Keys. She was like, "That was so beautiful." I hope I said, "Thank you." I was just so mesmerized by how beautiful she was in person.

Q: First album you bought with your own money?

A: The one I went to CD Warehouse and purchased with my own money was The Cardigans' "First Band on the Moon" album. I think I remember purchasing Spice Girls' first album as well. I was probably 7 or 8 years old, and I loved that "Lovefool" song. I ended up being obsessed with the entirety of The Cardigans' work. Their best record is called "Long Gone Before Daylight." It's one of my most inspiring albums that I go to when I need to fill my creative well for songs. It's so underrated .

Q: There's a video online of you performing "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls for a Fort Worth radio station in 2011. You said something that hit home for me: It's their worst song.

A: I love "Mama." That one's so good. And it's obviously, like, super sexual but "2 Become 1." I can't believe parents were letting their 9-year-old daughters sing along to that. But it's so good. It's literally saying, "I wanna make love to you, baby."

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'THRONES'

From page D1

HBO

Kit Harington and Emilia Clarke star in "Game of Thrones," which premiered its eighth season Sunday.

Some naked people. But the viscera was muted by "Thrones" standards. Presumably this was the sentimental and humor-laced calm before the coming storm.

And the idea of a storm made me think how much this episode churned with rounded movement. It opened with a child running through Winterfell, a callback to Bran traipsing the walls of Winterfell early in the pilot episode: Both shots of enthusiastic boys watching the arrival of a king/queen and their formidable forces.

The episode's last shot was the most resonant underscoring of the circular theme, when Jaime looked over and saw Bran, the child he pushed from a window at the conclusion of the pilot episode, presumably to his death.

More on this in a moment.

Reunions continued a circuit theme: Jon Snow and Arya Stark; Jon and Sam; Arya and the Hound; Sansa Stark and Tyrion Lannister; Theon and Yara Greyjoy. I guess even Euron and Cersei was a reunion of sorts, though it was more of a rendezvous, where the queen accommodated a salty dog despite her disappointment that he came bearing mercenaries but no elephants.

"Elephants?"

"No elephants, your grace."

"That's disappointing."

TRUTH.

Some of the reunions were heroic and some were tense and some were rushes of something resembling sentimentality.

Even the show's Big Bad got in on the circular action. The White Walkers left behind a little lord to be discovered by Beric Dondarrion, Tormund Giantsbane and the other survivors of the crumbling Wall. The child was implanted into a wall at the center of a pattern – a whirring circle akin to our weather map hurricane symbols. And again, it was assembled with pieces of flesh and bone.

The power dynamic at the start of this season is intriguing, but not in ways particularly different from the conclusion of the previous season. Cersei and Euron are reunited in King's Landing. Most everybody else has been drawn to Winterfell for what promises to be a formidable battle of the dead and the undead.

And while the nature of that conflict should be clearly defined, the forces have their share of internal tension. Sansa and Daenerys aren't exactly hitting it off, and Sansa is peeved that Jon bent the knee to the Queen, the Mother of Dragons, etc., etc. The Northerners also don't really appear to grasp the impending freeze (allegory alert), as they're focused on what's important to them right now. So they don't really trust Dany and her dragons. Or outsiders in general.

The dragons? They're gonna dragon.

Sansa, sneering: "What do dragons eat anyway?"

Dany: "Whatever they want."

And then follows some circular debate. Jon and Arya are happy to see one another, but she's very much in the service of Sansa, despite wanting to stab her the entirety of the first season. "She's the smartest person I've ever met," Arya says. She's not wrong. Sansa certainly schools Tyrion about Cersei's intentions, and Tyrion was one of the show's brighter bulbs.

So put a pin in that, because smarts *are* a good defense mechanism in Westeros. I'm liking Sansa's chances of getting out of this miserable story alive.

Other new meetings add tension: Sam meets Dany, which he's cool with until he finds out she roasted his father Randyll (eh) and his sweet, dumb brother Dickon (a more complicated issue).

Also Dany's dragons don't like the North.

There's some Dany/Jon dragon riding and kissing, and that sort of thing. And we think the big reveal is Sam breaking the news to Jon that he's a Targaryen and the rightful heir to the Iron Throne. And that *is* important because it will cause future ... something. Tension? Conflict? Consolidation of power? I don't know.

But I keep going back to Bran, dammit, which is frustrating. Back in the Hodor/"hold the door!" days, I thought Bran was on the cusp of being a story-changing wildly important character. And then he kind of faded back a bit for quite a few episodes. But this episode has me re-re-re-pondering Bran's role in all this.

Jon to Bran: "You're a man."

Bran: "Almost."

On the surface, it's a deflection and admission of adolescence incomplete. But I don't think Bran is talking about age and maturity. He exists in some non-human way, and I think it may yet play out in a forceful way.

So there Bran is at the end of the episode waiting on an "old friend." The remark could've been sarcasm, except the Three-Eyed Raven version of Bran – Bran 2.0 – doesn't do sarcasm any more than he does sentimentality or any of that human stuff.

Is there any chance Jaime is *literally* an old friend? That despite their earlier meeting in the very deliberately parallel pilot episode, where Jaime does something horrible "for love," they meet again? That Bran's ability to zip through time and space has found him meeting with Jaime again? Or time again and again?

With only five episodes remaining, this theory continues to trouble and haunt me. So much in this big story requires resolution that a Doctor Who version of Bran could be a real narrative problem if not naturally threaded through the story that we know so far.

But then I keep going back to the circular figures. Sometimes they're minor and sometimes they're major. I do believe that the show's creators – and also George R.R. Martin, author of the books – are trying to say something about cycles in humanity. I mean, they've changed the nature of seasons as far as we know them. But the show's most identifiable line will always be, "There's no cure for being a ...," err, sorry, I meant, "Winter is coming."

On this very grand canvas, the seasons change slowly and stick around for generations. Even in that setting – like ours, but slowed to a DJ Screw-like crawl – the cycles persist: family allegiance and family grudges, ambition, greed, etc. It's a grim concept to digest, but keep in mind that while the show's creators are both Gen X guys in their late-40s, Martin is 70 and was plum draft age during the Vietnam War, which is the last war involving America that included involuntary soldiers.

That's the kind of cultural gristle that doesn't get chewed, digested and purged. It has haunted a generation, and it has haunted a nation.

So after one episode, I think what I've thought, which is that there's not likely to be a clean conclusion to this story that will leave viewers contented.

Obviously the herd of characters will be thinned. Just listen to the use of Ramin Djawadi's "GOT" theme near the end of the episode. The cello notes are longer but far fewer, too. Maybe this is just a superficial way to shake things up for the show. But I don't think so. I think it's because the motion of the show is spiraling toward a point, and we can count on some long-running characters making their exit as the spiral tightens.

That spiral will hit a point, though, and I think the show's story will either stop short of that point, or it will give us a few moments revealing how the story bounces back outward with greater circles again. Both Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series and TV's "Game of Thrones" have never been linear stories. Those who follow the prehistory know that. Things spin past on not quite perfect circular paths. Mistakes are repeated. Things that are dormant rise again.

Sometimes people do things for love. And sometimes they see an old friend again.

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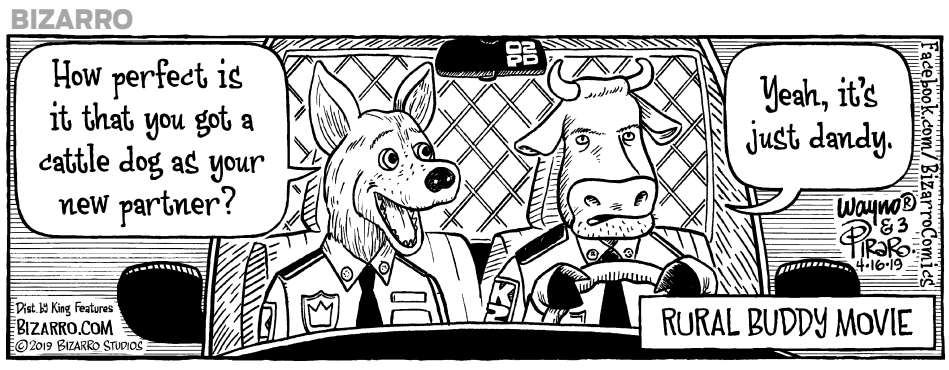
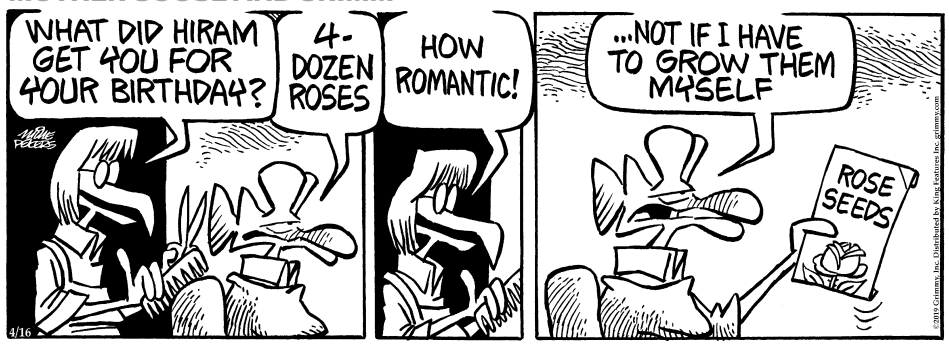
HOROSCOPES, ADVICE & COMICS

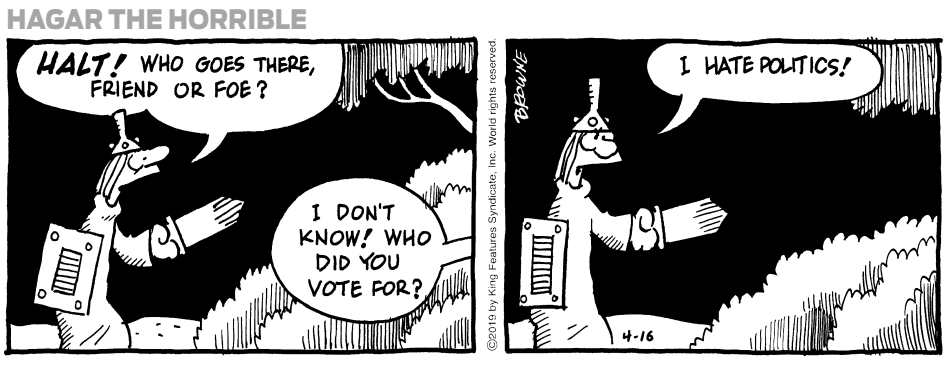
BIZARRO



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

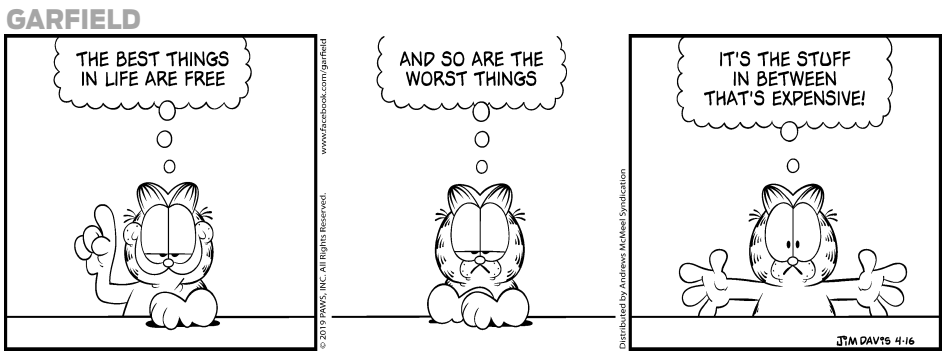


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!

GARFIELD



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DEAR ABBY

ABBY

Dear Abby:

My husband is more interested in hanging out with his friends than caring about our 11-year-old daughter who has Asperger's syndrome. She's a great kid and smart, but she has challenges and needs help. It falls to me to do everything with and for her.

I need him to participate more where she's concerned, but he loses patience with her and with me. He resents having to pay for therapy and music lessons for her (she loves music), but he had no hesitation about buying himself an expensive sports car – not for us but for him. He's actually going away for a weekend with his buddies!

I've thought about marriage counseling, but he isn't interested. I feel overwhelmed and very alone. Please help.

– Like A Single Mom In San Francisco

Dear Like A Single Mom:

I'll try. Forgive my sarcasm, but it appears you married a real "winner" – selfish and lacking the compassion and maturity to deal with the challenges your family is facing. Because your husband is unwilling to go with you for marriage counseling, you would benefit from talking to a licensed therapist on your own. When you do, it may give you a broader perspective on what your options are.

Dear Abby:

Eight years ago, my mother, then age 86, came to live with me. My life has changed substantially in the last two years, and I need to move to another state. My husband already lives there, and I want to be with him. My mother's anxieties and fears are what's holding me back.

I have told her she can live with us, or at a brand-new assisted living facility that's about to open. Alternatively, she could move back to our hometown where my retired sister lives and stay in an assisted living facility there.

Conversations with her on this subject are difficult as she prefers to ignore them. Her overall health is manageable, and she's doing well cognitively. What do I do?

– Taking Care In Florida

Dear Taking Care:

Continue moving forward with your plans to relocate to be with your husband. Tell your mother you are giving her the choice of whether to reside with you or near your sister, but make clear she must make up her mind because you need to know whether you will have to accommodate her in your new home. Give her a deadline to let you know her preference, but if she refuses, make sure she understands that by default she'll be living near your sister.

www.DearAbby.com
Andrews McMeel Syndication

HINTS FROM HELOISE

HELOISE

Dear Readers:

April is AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH. Autism is the term for a group of developmental impairments that can cause people to have difficulty interacting with others. Its symptoms can include avoiding eye contact, having sensitivity to light and sound, and exhibiting repetitive mannerisms and motions, among many others.

Visit www.autismspeaks.org for helpful information, resources and support. There's also a toll-free telephone line, 888-AUTISM2 (888-288-4762), for general questions and hints to help.

– Heloise

Dear Heloise:

When was the last time you checked the "use-by" dates on items in your refrigerator, freezer and pantry?

I was surprised that even flour, sugar, baking powder and salad dressings have them. I mark their dates on them with a permanent marker.

– Elaine H., Port Charlotte, Fla

Heloise@heloise.com
King Features Syndicate

JACQUELINE BIGAR

Your Horoscope for Tuesday, April 16

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You could experience a strange tension as you attempt to put a situation together or understand the mechanics of what's happening.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ At this point, your creativity soars. Confusion could exist around manifesting some of your great ideas. Reach out for a loved one or a dear friend at a distance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ You might find it difficult to move from one topic to another. You could be focused on one issue and unable deal with others until you find a solution or answer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Speak your mind. Be clear about what needs to happen in order to clear out an issue. Exchange ideas freely; somewhere within discussions, a gem of an idea emerges.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Don't try to stretch either your budget or your assets too far. Confusion could easily plague your finances. An offer made might not come through in the way that you believe it will.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Be aware of what needs to happen to further your cause. You could feel as though you cannot make a difference when dealing with a witty, undirected friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Know when to listen more. You might not believe the gems of wisdom that could tumble into your life. You hear many different approaches and ways of thinking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You might feel as though a loved one or child could be a little too distracting. Try to approach each issue on its own merits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Take a stand and stay more in touch with your feelings. You could be in a jam and trying to juggle various facets of a problem.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ What seems clear to you might be incredibly Byzantine to another person. Try not to be overly serious and demanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Deal directly with a close associate. You succeed when interacting with others on this level. You can get to the bottom line far more quickly.

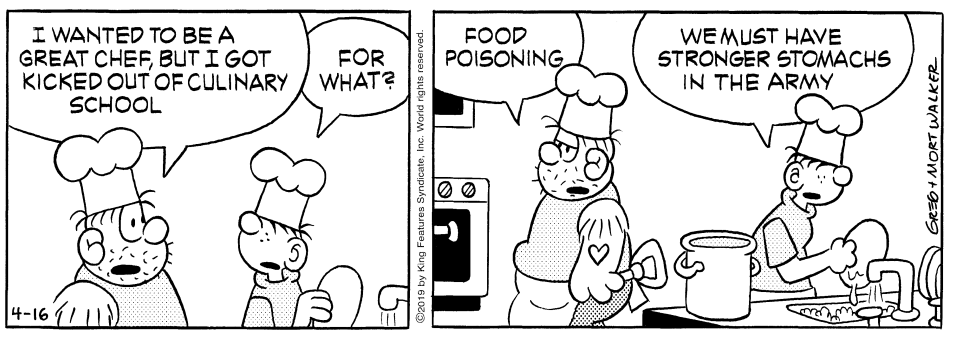
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ With the help of a key partner, zero in on what you want. Together, you and your partner make a strong team. A long-term goal could be in sight.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY (April 16) This year, you make headway toward a long-term goal. You'll expend a lot of energy. If single, you might want to devote less time to dating for a while.

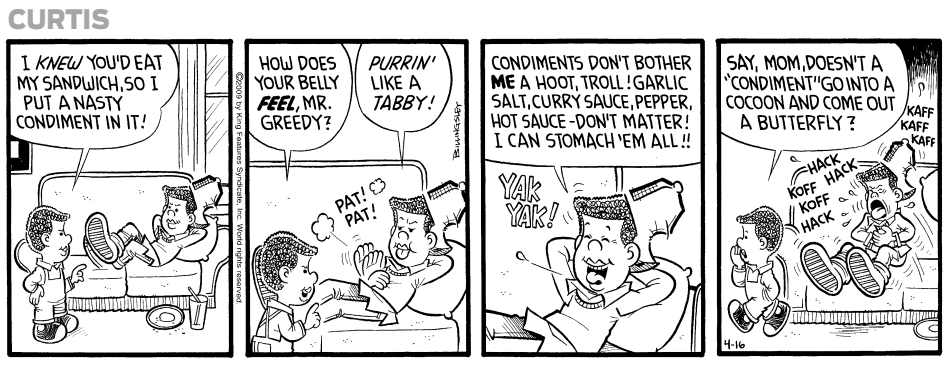
King Features Syndicate

BLONDIE

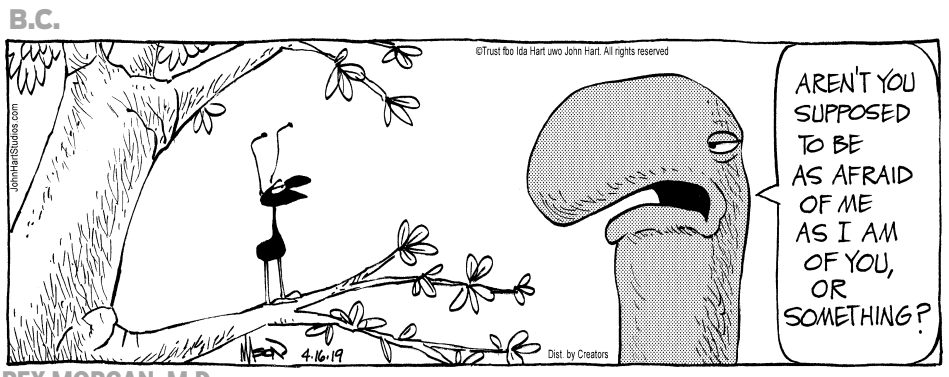
BEETLE BAILEY



CURTIS



B.C.

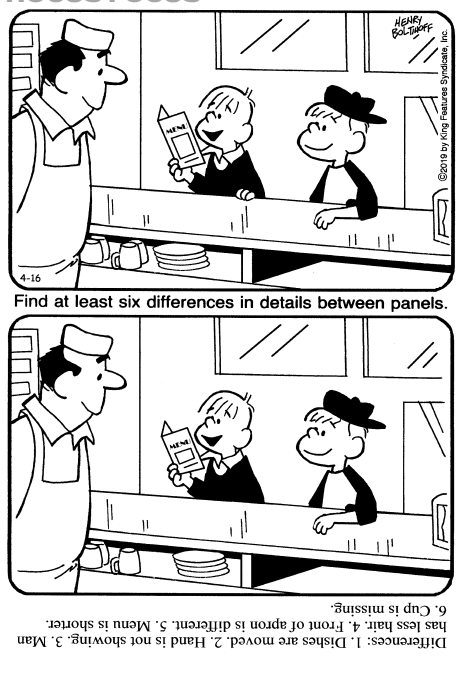


REX MORGAN, M.D.

PHANTOM

ARGYLE SWEATER

HOCUS FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Dishes are moved. 2. Hand is not showing. 3. Man has less hair. 4. Front of apron is different. 5. Menu is shorter. 6. Cup is missing.

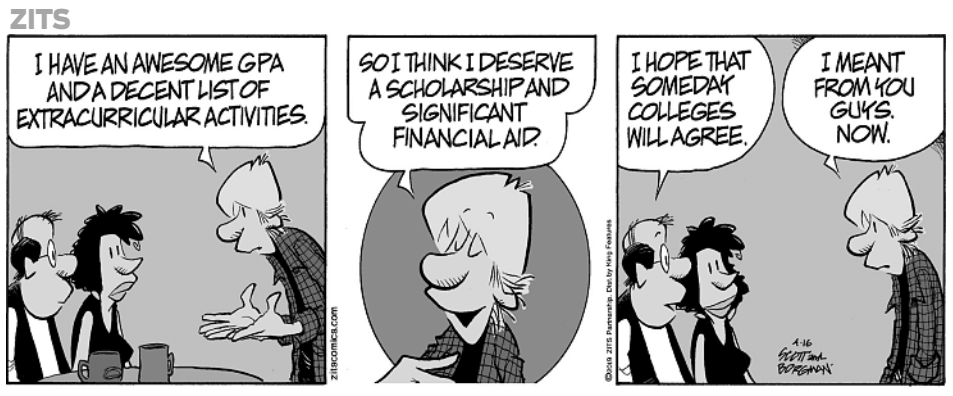
COMICS

FAMILY CIRCUS

"I can't eat another bite unless it's dessert."

ZIGGY

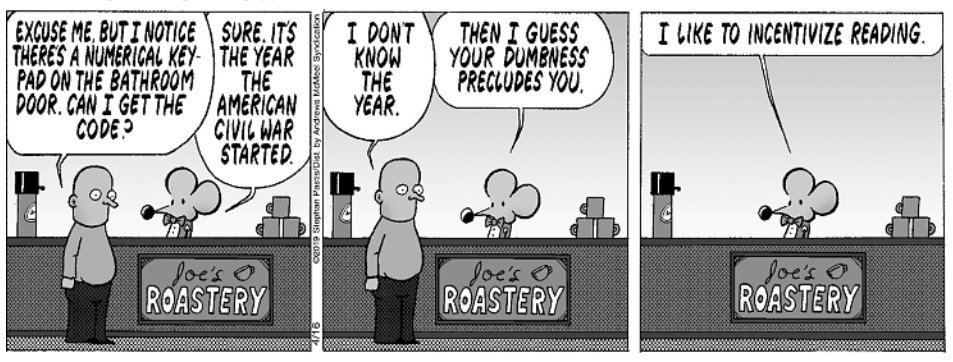
ZITS



WALLACE THE BRAVE

MUTTS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



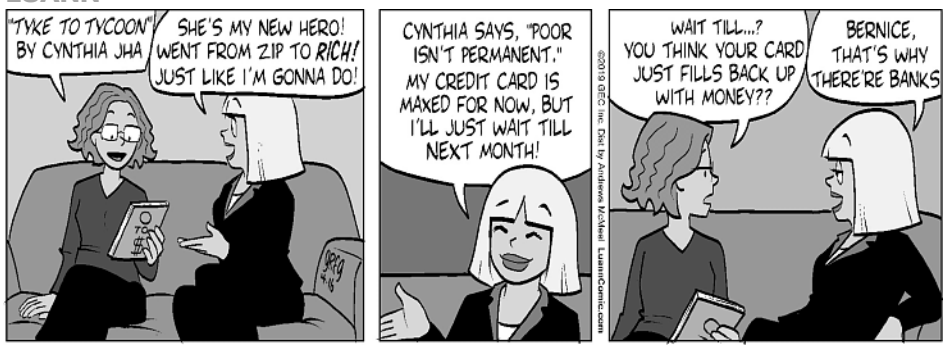
BABY BLUES

DILBERT

PEANUTS

BREAKING CAT NEWS

LUANN

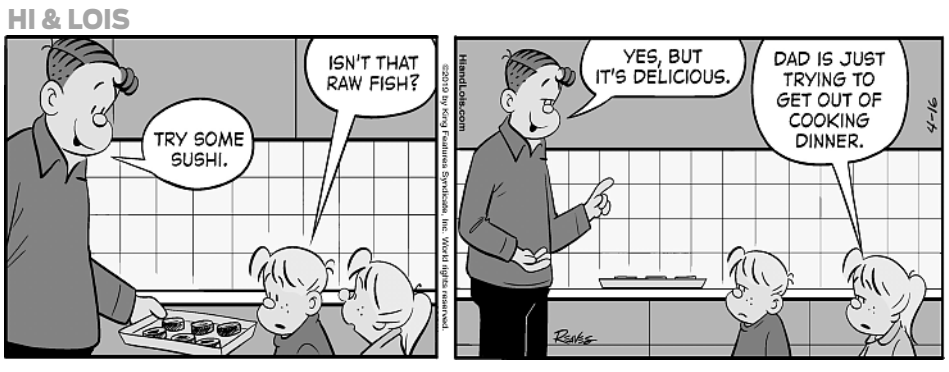


RHYMES WITH ORANGE

HEART OF THE CITY

WUMO

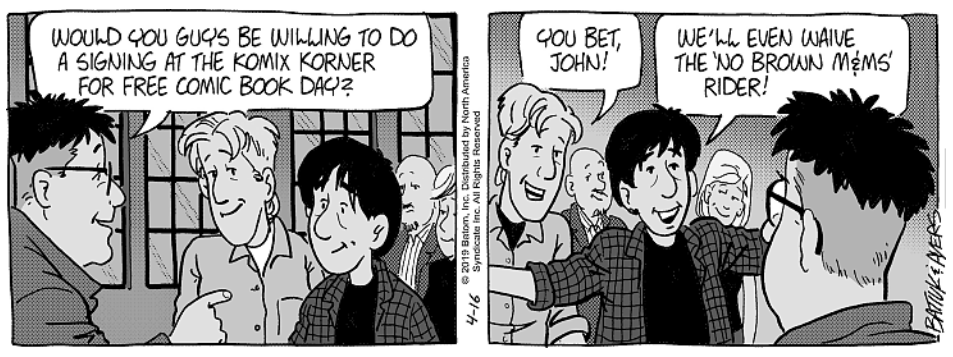
HI & LOIS



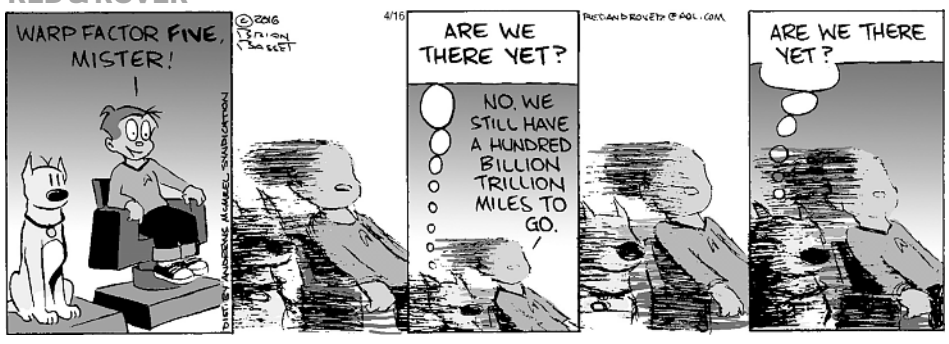
CRANKSHAFT

BALDO

FUNKY WINKERBEAN

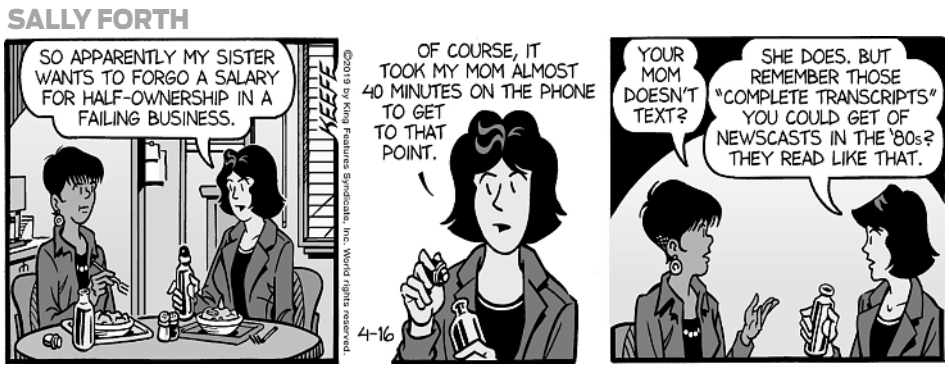


RED & ROVER



F MINUS

SALLY FORTH



Melissa Phillip / Staff photographer

The Neighbours joke that they chose a carpet color similar to the hair of their two golden retrievers.

BEDROOM

From page D1

tors, and two responded with identical bids: $49,995 and a three-month construction timetable.

"Fifty grand and three months – I don't like either of those things," Randall said. "I'd rather do it myself, even if it takes longer. I did it for $27,000, so it was still expensive but it saved a lot of money."

Interior designer Lori Michalek of Michalek Designs had helped the Neighbours with the front of their home – updating the living room into a more functional space – and helped with the framework of the master bedroom project, too. She sketched out the complicated coffered ceiling, helped with cabinet design and recommended moving one of the room's two doors.

The couple tried to stay in the bedroom as long as they could because the 118-year-old bungalow is small and its other bedroom serves as the office for Randall's financial planning business, Kingdom Wealth Management. As he worked on baseboards and trim for the windows and doors, they stayed in the room. Then when the real construction began, they moved their bed into the living room, where they slept for several months.

"People have asked Etna if she was frustrated by how long it took and being in a dusty environment," Randall said.

"I said, 'No, he was saving us money,' " she replied matter-of-factly.

"I have a dogged determination that when I start something, I cannot stop until it's done. When I had problems, I'd wake up at 4 a.m. with solutions and come in here to test them out," he said. "Every morning before work I'd be in here. I'd work evenings, every Saturday, every Sunday after church I'd be in here working."

Beginners might not want to tackle such a complicated ceiling project, but Randall – who is handy, detail-oriented and good at problem solving – acknowledges that he got help from a number of skilled people.

"I have a dogged determination that when I start something, I cannot stop until it's done. When I had problems, I'd wake up at 4 a.m. with solutions and come in here to test them out."

Randall Neighbour, homeowner

There was the guy who hung sheetrock at a discount because the Neighbours gave him the original shiplap on the walls. And the painter who spent at least a couple of weeks using oil-based paint – a more difficult and time consuming paint job – as well as Etna's boss, who built the cabinet and drawer boxes for the closet.

And, of course, there's the internet.

"I went on YouTube and typed in 'how to build a coffered ceiling,' " Randall said. "As always, my life motto is, 'Men build (fill in the blank). I am a man, therefore, I can build whatever.' "

Michalek had given him an outline of what to do, but Randall needed help with the actual construction techniques.

Randall Neighbour

Randall Neighbour built a four-foot by six-foot movable, two-tiered platform to make work on the coffered ceiling safer and easier.

Since he didn't want to attempt the task from a ladder, he built a rolling platform that was 4 feet tall and 6 feet wide that he could move throughout the room and be elevated and stable. He spent $15,000 on lumber in $2,000 increments as he worked his way through the room.

He added ornate trim and medallion accents at each cross point. And in the center of nine of the squares he added dimmable recessed lights.

The Neighbours started the project in the summer of 2017 and finished in December of the same year. So they lucked out by doing the sheetrock work before Hurricane Harvey put materials and labor in short supply, but it became a problem for carpet.

"We waited two and a half months for carpet because of Harvey," Randall said, noting that they chose a color that closely matched the hair of their two lovable golden retrievers, Junebug and Ladybug.

As they enjoyed their finished room, the couple contemplated where they might put a TV. The far wall in a 24-foot-long room seemed too far away, but the exterior wall has windows and the interior wall has the built-in closet.

"That wall is the only wall in here for a television, and look how far away it is. If I was 20 it would be fine, but I can't see that far," he said. "I thought a pop-up TV would be good. I looked online and they were $2,000, $3,000, $4,000, and they were not well made."

They sought help from Michalek, who had some experience helping clients get TVs that retracted into a cabinet so that when they're not being watched, they're out of view.

She advised against cheaper models Randall found online, and urged him to look at TVliftcabinet.com, where the hydraulic lift units came with a five-year warranty and were made in the U.S.

Randall and a friend built the cabinet with end pieces that serve as extra storage and places to sit. The same company that made the doors for their closet also made panels for the outside of the TV cabinet so it would match.

The cabinet – which sits at the foot of the bed – has a hydraulic lift that's synced up with the TV, so its remote control on/off button also launches the lift.

And, as with most home improvement projects, finishing the bedroom prompted a closer look at one last space.

"Etna said to me, 'The bedroom looks like the Taj Mahal, will you please fix the hallway now?' " Randall said. "I spent the next three months working on the hallway."

Note: This is part of an occasional series of stories that looks at how a homeowner or family transforms a single room in their home. To be considered for this "One Room" feature, write to diane.cowen@chron.com.

BEYONCÉ

From page D1

stage footage. She was the first black woman to headline Coachella, and her pyramid stage was on display at this year's festival.

It was, like so much of her art, a celebration of blackness and womanhood. And from the costumes to the drumline to the song selection, the shows were unapologetic tributes to historically black colleges and universities. Her yellow Balmain sweatshirt was emblazoned with the Greek letters for Beta Delta Kappa.

(I haven't seen "Homecoming" – Netflix did not make it available in advance – but did watch the performance when it was streamed live.)

Farrah Cambrice, assistant professor of social work, behavioral and political sciences at Prairie View A&M University, said she recognized her own experiences in Beyoncé's performance.

"She told our story, and by doing so at Coachella, she was able to bring the black college experience to a mainstream audience," Cambrice said. "The black college experience, just like so many features of our culture, remains very marginalized or hidden. We often find ourselves explaining it to others who aren't familiar with the experience."

Coachella becomes Beychella

The carefully curated set list was a master class in intention. Beyoncé opened with "Crazy in Love," which gave way to "Freedom," followed by "Lift Every Voice and Sing," known as the black national anthem; before lapsing into "Formation." There were tributes to Nina Simone, Nefertiti and Malcolm X; Houston and New Orleans; Fela Kuti and "The Wiz."

'Homecoming: A Film by Beyoncé'

Rated: Unrated
Running time: 137 minutes
Details: Begins streaming Wednesday on Netflix

Even before she took the stage, fans dubbed the shows "Beychella." The original 2017 date was postponed because Beyoncé was pregnant with twins Sir and Rumi. She was replaced by Lady Gaga.

Erik M. Granados, a proud member of the Beyhive, traveled from Houston to Indio, Calif., to see Beyoncé. He has seen her live seven times but calls the Coachella performance "by far one of the greatest live experiences I've ever attended."

Kevin Mazur / Getty Images for Coachella

One fan at Beyoncé's Coachella show called it "the greatest live experiences I've ever attended."

"My skin was burned, my feet were dead, but I'll never forgot that performance. An icon, a living legend, the queen of everything," says Granados, who graduated in 2012 from Texas Southern University. "I was ecstatic."

Art of storytelling

Beyoncé's reunion with Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams emanated love. Her "Get Me Bodied" dance break with Solange was pure joy. And the inclusion of "Bow Down/I Been On," with its chopped and screwed flow, was an unmistakable ode to her hometown.

But the show's lasting legacy, said Cambrice, will be the way it shone a light on the HBCU experience.

"She has opened the door, and now I hope that college-bound high school students will take a closer look and consider our institutions," Cambrice said. "I hope that movie producers and artists will take a closer look and consider telling our stories. Representation matters. Storytelling matters."

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eXtra TRAVEL

RAIL JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE

Ethiopia's state-of-the-art train revolutionizes access. PAGES 6-8

Cycling tours now offer e-bikes as option. PAGE 2

History of Natchez, Miss., starts in cemetery. PAGES 4-5

Cycling tours, once for the hard-core, now offer e-bikes

By Patrick Scott
NEW YORK TIMES

On a cycling tour along the coast of southwest Sardinia, Kathleen Robinson thanked God she was riding an electric bike up the winding heights. But she wished she'd had a class beforehand on the proper etiquette.

She didn't realize that the hum of her motor would annoy some of the traditional cyclists on the tour, nor was she certain whether to spin in the back of the pack or move out front. Robinson, 60, had enough sense to gloat tactically, like when she sailed past a friend grinding up a hill and "gave him my Queen Elizabeth wave."

"There wasn't a problem as long as I didn't stay next to someone who was struggling hard," she said.

Over the past two years, bike tour companies large and small have seen a spike in demand for e-bikes and have ramped up their battery-powered fleets and the equipment needed to haul the heavier machines. The bikes now are used by 10 to 30 percent of riders on tours, operators said, and that percentage is only increasing.

"E-bikes are revolutionizing bike tours," said Maria Elena Price, co-owner of Experience-Plus! Bicycle Tours, which offers itineraries in 20 countries.

Pedaling kick-starts an e-bike's motors, which cut off at 20 mph in the United States and about 15 mph in Europe. Riding an e-bike can feel like having wind at your back or a pair of bionic legs. That has opened tours to non-cyclists who are less fit, people once sidelined by injury and older cyclists looking to extend their riding days.

Like a marriage counselor, they unite couples who once vacationed separately or joined bike tours reluctantly.

But as with many innovations in sports – think high-tech racing suits for swimmers and sticky gloves for football players – e-bikes have created their own set of tensions and hand-wringing over the artificial advantage.

Experienceplus! Bicycle Tours

Riders take to the road with e-bikes during a tour in Italy.

While most on the tours say e-bikes make for more harmonious rides with fewer stressed-out stragglers, the bikes have also given rise to incessant corny jokes – "I didn't think that hill was that hard," said the e-biker – and no shortage of muttered obscenities from drained riders as e-bikers nonchalantly breeze by.

ExperiencePlus!, which is based in Colorado, limited e-bikes to two per trip until 2017, when requests multiplied, Price said.

Guides now have an orientation script explaining that e-bikes are "not mini-mopeds" and asking e-bikers "to respect your fellow push-bike riders as you pass them effortlessly on a climb, and for those of you on push bikes to not look 'down' on the e-bikers."

Rarely does a guide need to reprimand a rider, said Alain Rimondi, a tour leader for ExperiencePlus! in Italy. But when the sides are evenly mixed, he said, "it turns into an interesting social experiment."

Battery-powered bikes were invented more than a century ago. But they remained a clunky oddity until this decade, taking hold on riding tours first in Europe, which has an expansive bike culture, then spreading to the United States.

Norman Patry, the owner of Summer Feet Cycling in Maine, said he was too far ahead of the curve when he bought a dozen e-bikes six years ago.

They gathered dust, and he stopped promoting them on his website.

Now, the sector is full of energy.

"Everybody who is in the biking space is talking about it and thinking about it," Patry said. "We're past the point where they're wondering if they're going to do it; everybody thinks they need to do it now." He's replacing his fleet this year.

The costs can be substantial: E-bikes typically run at least double the price of a regular hybrid touring bike, with outfitters generally paying $1,500 to $3,000 for one e-bike.

One of the larger tour operators, Vermont-based VBT Bicycling and Walking Vacations, has invested more than $1 million in e-bikes, said Ray Hourani, head of global operations.

In a five-year plan created in 2016, VBT projected 12 percent of bookings would be for e-bikes. It's already at 30 percent, he said.

That's brought new challenges. Hundreds of new e-bikes required dozens of custom-made trailers to support them. And guides in Europe needed a special driver's license to transport the heavier loads.

The staff at Bicycle Adventures of Redmond, Wash., had seemingly endless debates when it tested e-bikes six years ago. According to Todd Starnes, the owner, they argued about whether e-bikes were cheating, how e-bikers would be treated, whether the tour makeup would be changed and more.

The verdict? "In some ways, I think it makes the trip a little better," Starnes said.

For one, tours begin with less anxious questions about distance and elevation.

"The person on the e-bike is less concerned at that point about whether they can keep up and more concerned about what the others think about them being on an e-bike," Starnes said. "And they soon learn that nobody cares."

E-bikes also make it easier for guides; less sheep-dogging laggards who delay the rest of the group.

"Everybody is at lunch at the same time," Starnes said.

Joe DeYoung, a former amateur racer who leads rides on parts of the Tour de France route, is in favor of e-bikes but not for himself.

He remembers straining up the legendary Mont Ventoux in France last year, then hearing humming and seeing two e-bikes blow past him.

"About a mile from the top, where it really gets steep, they ran out of batteries and I went by them," DeYoung, 67, said. "I got my revenge."

But as more commuters and recreational cyclists embrace e-bikes, and as technological advances continue to make them cheaper and sleeker, the influx on bike tours is likely to continue.

"As the baby boomers get older, they'll need them," said Jim Johnson, the owner of BikeTours.com of Chattanooga, Tenn. "As the millennials start needing knee-replacement surgery, they'll need them, too."

Check out some unusual, educational museums

Expand your mind and stretch your imagination in a museum. Here are five to consider:

The Easy-Bake Oven was inducted into the Strong National Museum of Play's National Toy Hall of Fame.
Don Strand

1. MUSEUM OF THE WEST, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.:

Your family can steep in the culture, history and art of the American West during a visit to this award-winning museum. From master potters to the unique stories of cowboy culture showcased on the silver screen, there is much to learn through interactive exhibits, scavenger and treasure hunts and multimedia kiosks. The museum recently premiered the photographs of Senator Barry M. Goldwater. The Arizona Highways Collection showcases images captured by a man best known as a U.S. senator but widely respected as a gifted photographer. His images of the Grand Canyon and the native peoples of Northern Arizona offer a rare glimpse into the region's history. Contact: www.ScottsdaleMuseumWest-.org; www.GoldwaterFoundation.org

2. MUSEUM OF CLEAN, POCATELLO, IDAHO:

It's all about clean. But not just about how to tidy up your child's room. We are talking clean language, a clean community and a clean (and green) world. Visit this museum to learn about the history of tools used to spruce things up. You'll see nearly 1,000 vacuums and learn their how they developed over a century. Find out what it's like to clean a chimney, as chimney sweeps once did. Learn lessons about waste from the "Texas-sized" trash can, check out the broom collection "swept in" from far and wide and visit the Garage to discover how clutter can affect the rest of our lives. Contact: www.MuseumofClean.com.

3. THE STRONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY, ROCHESTER, N.Y.:

Play is good for kids of all ages. You'll learn about play and favorite pastimes in a permanent exhibit that explores 300 years of history. View rare board games, see the world's largest erector set, challenge your crew to a game of toy trivia and test your memories in the concentration game within a 100,000 square foot fun zone. Play hop scotch, chess and checkers on Sesame Street, ride a carousel, hop aboard a train and check out the on-site National Toy Museum. Contact: www,Museumofplay.org

4. DELAWARE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, WILMINGTON, DEL.:

Stretch your child's imagination by serving up science, math and technology in a creative space. In the Bank on It exhibit kids get the chance to learn all about the currency that makes the world go world, from planning and earning to spending and saving. Head to the Stratosphere to climb inside a 30-foot wide structure overlooking the lobby. In the Tree Pavilion, you'll find a 350 year-old Sycamore, measuring 7.5 feet wide and tall and 21 feet long. The tree was restored by a local resident and serves as a conversation starter about the importance of keeping things green. Contact: http://delawarechildrensmuseum.org/

5. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM & THEATRE OF MAINE, PORTLAND, MAINE:

This museum encourages collaborative play with your child. Head to the Dress-up Theatre and tell your own story, go to the rescue in the fire truck and explore the Touch Tank together. Make time for the Farmer's Market where budding math skills come into play. Capture the local vibe when you climb aboard a replica of a lobster boat. Learn how to haul in the traps, navigate your way to the Portland Harbor and discover the importance of the state's fishing heritage. Become a ranger in the Ranger Station and identify native plants and animals. Contact: www.Kitetails.org

Knowing Natchez by its dead

City cemetery best place to start exploring town history

By Richard Rubin
NEW YORK TIMES

Make your way around Natchez, Miss., and you get the sense that if some people ever got really close to living like European aristocrats in the United States, it happened there. The town, which overlooks the Mississippi River, has perhaps the greatest concentration of splendid antebellum mansions in the country. "Economic historians will tell you that Natchez was the richest town per capita in the United States from about 1820 to 1860," said Mimi Miller, executive director of the Historic Natchez Foundation.

Most of those fortunes were wiped out by the Civil War; but Miller believes that Natchez itself, with all its grand homes, was spared largely because "Natchez voted against secession." Not that its elite were opposed to slavery – most of their fortunes were built on cotton and thus on slave labor – but, as Miller put it, the town's leading citizens recognized that "secession was bad for business – and crazy." Even today, she said, you rarely see Confederate flags there.

Instead, many proud Natchezians honor their heritage – and, in some cases, subsist – by preserving their big old houses and opening them to the public: some year-round, many more during annual spring and fall pilgrimages.

"Natchez is a blue dot in a red state," Miller explained; and, like most living, breathing contradictions, it has a complex and compelling back story. You could say the town is even more riddled with history than it is with Old South manors and manners. And since so much of Natchez is counterintuitive, it makes an odd kind of sense that the best place to start exploring its history is the last stop for so many of its residents: the city cemetery.

It was established in 1822, on 10 acres; today it comprises around 110, verdant meadows infiltrated with hills and speckled with big old trees, some of which are, true to archetype, dripping with Spanish moss. Not everyone buried there – and no one knows how many people that may be – was rich, of course.

But the rich are the easiest to spot: Just look for the really big pillars, like the one for Frederick Stanton (1794-1859). His epitaph, "We walk by faith and not by sight," seems ironic considering that his stone, which sits atop a hill, can be seen from just about anywhere on the grounds. "Just like his house dominates the town, his marker dominates the cemetery," Miller noted. That house, Stanton Halla, completed in 1858, occupies an entire city block.

The pillars naturally draw the eye, but the best stories can be found on more modest markers. There are veterans of the Revolutionary War, and explorers, and artists, and gamblers, and the founder of the state's first newspaper. And there are some who, even in such company, stand out:

Here Reposeth the remains of
Don JOSÉ VIDAL
Who was Born in the city of
Coruña, Spain March 12, 1765
DIED In New Orleans on the
22, of July 1828.

Natchez was founded by the French in 1716 – two years before New Orleans – and appropriated, after the French and Indian War, by the British. But the Spanish, who in turn seized it from the otherwise-occupied British in 1779, had the greatest impact on colonial Natchez, even though they held it for only 19 years before ceding it to the Americans. It was the Spanish who laid out Natchez in its current form. They even installed a cotton gin there in 1795 – just two years after Eli Whitney invented the machine in Georgia.

"The Anglo settlers loved the Spanish," Miller said. "They spoke of the Spanish days as the Golden Days: no taxation, liberal land grants." José Vidal, who reposeth beneath a respectable but hardly ostentatious column, was the secretary to Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, the last Spanish governor of Natchez; the town of Vidalia, Louisiana, just across the Mississippi, is named for him. Vidal is interred in the cemetery's Plat 1, or the "Old Catholic" section. It has, Miller said, "some of the oldest graves – and the most poorly cared-for."

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM JOHNSON
BORN 1809 IN NATCHEZ MISS.
DEPARTED THIS LIFE
JUNE 17, 1851

"He was murdered," Miller said of the man buried beneath this very large, flat rectangular stone slab, also in Plat 1. "Over a land dispute." The Natchez Courier denounced "a horrible and deliberate murder" that was "committed upon an excellent and most inoffensive man" who held "a respected opinion on account of his character, intelligence and deportment." It noted: "We observed very many of our most respected citizens at his funeral ... Johnson left a wife, nine children, and quite a handsome property; probably twenty to thirty thousand dollars." He owned plantations, a thriving barbershop, and slaves.

And he was black.

He was born a slave. The man who owned him, also presumed to have been his father, emancipated him at age 11, an act Mississippi made very difficult and later banned. William Johnson's status as a free man of color, as one of Natchez's more respected and successful businessmen and as a slaveholder are remarkable but not unique. What really makes him special is that he kept a meticulously detailed diary. It's a record of loans he made and game he bagged, local events (lots of brawls) and gossip (lots of feuds). In that regard, it's about as scrupulous an eye-level account of antebellum Natchez as you will find. But it can also be a harrowing read, knowing what fate had in store for its author and contemplating the peculiar existence of a black slaveholder. He had tried to train one of his slaves, Steven, as a barber, but it didn't take:

"To day has been to me a very Sad Day; many tears was in my Eyes to day On acct. of my selling poor Steven ... I felt hurt but Liquor is the Cause of his troubles; I would not have parted with Him if he had Only Let Liquor alone but he Cannot do it I believe ..."

Johnson's significance to history is confirmed by the fact that his house in town is today a museum run by the National Park Service; his significance to his contemporaries is confirmed by the fact that his and his family's graves are surrounded by those of other prominent families of Natchez, all of whom were white. Natchez's cemetery was, like others throughout the South, racially segregated – but unlike those others, Miller explained, in Natchez's "it wasn't always adhered to."

Photos by Sara Essex Bradley / New York Times

Natchez-under-the-Hill, a neighborhood below the bluffs of Natchez, Miss., in 2018.

The headstone for Rosalie Beekman, 7, the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Germany who died in 1862.

ROSALIE, daughter of AARON
& FANNY BEEKMAN
Born May 13th 1855 Died Sept.
3d 1862
SHE WAS KILLED BY A SHELL,
AND WAS THE SOLE VICTIM
OF THE BOMBARDMENT OF
NATCHEZ, BY THE U.S. NAVY,
SEPT 2d 1862.

Natchez wasn't entirely spared during the Civil War, but responsibility for its one instance of bloodshed lies squarely with locals, not the Yankees. On Sept. 2, 1862, the Union gunboat Essex docked at Natchez to take on some ice for its wounded sailors. No one in town seemed to mind except "a group of retired men, sort of a home guard – they called themselves 'the Silver Grays,'" Miller said, her voice tinged with contempt. "They got upset, and overreacted, and fired at them. The Essex retaliated and shelled the city of Natchez." Some buildings were hit; miraculously, there was only one casualty: 7-year-old Rosalie Beekman, the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Germany.

The headstone for a woman named Louise. After she fell gravely ill and died, a Presbyterian minister buried her.

"We had a large wave of Jewish immigration starting about 1840," Miller explained, "from the French-German regions of Europe." Along with an earlier wave of English and Scottish craftsmen, she said, these Jewish immigrants "had the largest impact on the town." They were, for the most part, merchants; the community grew and grew, attracting more immigrants from Central and later Eastern Europe. Their names can still be found embedded in sidewalks and painted on buildings. The handsome domed synagogue they built downtown, Temple B'nai Israel, is still in use, although few members of the congregation remain. Many more can be found in several Jewish sections in the cemetery. Rosalie rests in the "Old Jewish" section, which dates to 1844. Her parents, who lived into the 20th century, can be found in a newer section, laid out atop what is called Jewish Hill.

It's said that as Aaron Beekman and his family were running for shelter from the bombardment, he saw his daughter fall and urged her to get up.

"I can't, Papa," she replied. "I'm killed."

LOUISE
THE UNFORTUNATE

There was a lot of unfortunate in Natchez back when. You didn't have to be killed by a greedy neighbor or shelled by a Union gunboat to die before your time, as another marker near Louise's attests: It commemorates Joseph Eisley's wife and five children, all of whom died of yellow fever within one week in 1853. When Eisley himself passed away, 39 years later, someone chiseled his name, in a humbler font, at the bottom of that long list.

As for Louise, she worked down by the river, where unfortunate dwelt in abundance. While most of Natchez rests atop a bluff overlooking the Mississippi, one neighborhood, at its base, is known as Natchez Under-the-Hill. Today it's just a few blocks of gift shops and fun-but-not-too-raucous pubs; back in the day, though, it was much larger, with a rather colorful reputation. As Joseph Holt Ingraham, a New Englander who visited Natchez in the early 1830s, wrote in his 1835 account "The South-West, by a Yankee":

"Like the celebrated "Five Points" in New-York, 'Natchez under the Hill,' as it has been aptly named, has extended its fame throughout the United States, in wretched rhyme and viler story. For many years it has been the nucleus of vice upon the Mississippi."

Steamships were constantly docking at and shipping out from the landings at Natchez Under-the-Hill. The streets were lined with grog shops, gambling dens and bordellos, and teemed at all hours with stevedores, sailors, gangs and thieves. And prostitutes.

No one knows where Louise came from or how she ended up in Natchez, but at some point, she fell gravely ill – likely with consumption – and a number of her co-workers implored a Presbyterian minister, Joseph Buck Stratton, to pay her a call.

"I would have shrunk from it," Stratton wrote in his diary in May 1849, "but the friends wished me to be with them and I stayed for their good and my own, to see the Prostitute die ... it was a death that gives no tangible ground for hope."

Stratton buried Louise and commissioned her stone. It's not known how many others like her are interred throughout the cemetery.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EVA MARIE OUR ST. BERNARD DEC. 4, 1991 MAR. 15, 1999 EVIE, SO SWEET, GENTLE, LOVING AND BEAUTIFUL, YOU BROUGHT LOVE AND JOY BEYOND MEASURE. WAIT FOR US.

I can't recall another cemetery where pets are regularly interred alongside their owners, but they are in Natchez's, including, in one of its newer sections, nine St. Bernards arrayed around a large dual marker fitted with twin urns and a modest obelisk. "LIVED AT THE BRIARS 1975-2008" – a tribute to the dogs' owners' 1818-built mansion, the childhood home of Varina Howell Davis, the first lady of the Confederacy – is the only epitaph Oliver Newton Wilds Jr. and Robert Everett Canon chose for their stone. "Bob and Newt," Miller told me with a smile. "Most people just called them 'The Boys at the Briars.' "

In 2016, shortly after Mississippi passed a law allowing individuals, businesses and organizations to deny service to LGBT customers, Natchez issued its own statement referencing the new ordinance and declaring, without reservation, that all were welcome in their city.

"Natchez," Miller said, "marches to its own drummer. Always."

A remarkable rail journey into the Horn of Africa's past – and its future

By Henry Wismayer
NEW YORK TIMES

We were around 30 miles shy of Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, when the train hit a cow, its impact signaled by an abrupt drop in speed and a sharp judder rippling through the couplings.

"What's happening?" I asked the carriage attendant as she hurried along the aisle.

"No problem," she replied brightly, without breaking stride. "A technician is dealing with it." It was only later that one of our Ethiopian neighbors told us we'd struck some errant livestock.

The passengers – my photographer Marcus Westberg and I among them – merely shrugged. We'd never kidded ourselves that this trip would be entirely without misadventure.

In the nine years since my first visit, a lot had changed in Ethiopia. The economy had boomed, with years of sustained 10 percent annual growth yielding significant jumps in life expectancy, living standards and GDP. In September, a rapprochement with Eritrea, Ethiopia's glowering northern neighbor, brought peace to their shared border for the first time in more than 20 years.

However, for every two steps forward there has been one back. With the economic miracle stalled by drought in 2016, and anti-government riots tearing through the Oromia heartlands the same year, Ethiopia remained transitional, ill at ease with the pace of change. Last month's horrifying crash of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, which killed 157 people from 35 countries, couldn't help but recall the trauma of the late 20th century, when Ethiopia was a place all too synonymous with tragedy.

Still, the thing that had brought me back here seemed like a concrete embodiment of progress: Ethiopia now had a state-of-the-art train. In 2011, the government announced that a new electrified railway would be built between Addis Ababa and the tiny neighboring country of Djibouti, aided by Chinese loans and expertise. Five years and $3.4 billion later, the first freight train made the 470-mile journey, revolutionizing landlocked Ethiopia's access to the Red Sea, where Djibouti's Doraleh Port processes 95 percent of its international trade.

After several postponements, a passenger service went online in January 2018 and quickly became a symbol of Ethiopian ambition – the first stage of a planned network which, if realized, will span 3,000 miles. For tourists, it promised cheap, air-conditioned travel far from the Rift Valley scarps and rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia's Northern Circuit, in a region that nonetheless incorporated some of the most remarkable sights in the African Horn.

'Bring food'

The day before we intended to depart, we went to buy tickets at Lebu Station. The new line's western terminus was a cavernous mustard-colored building topped with twin cupolas, which sat incongruously on Addis Ababa's southwest outskirts. In the vacant ticket hall, the man at the counter seemed genuinely shocked when I asked him for two tickets to the city of Dire Dawa. Yet more disconcerting than his reaction was the sheet of paper taped to his window. Blaming recent disruptions on "local villagers," it then issued an explicit deterrent: "Reminder: think twice before purchasing your tickets."

The ticket vendor's parting words: "Bring food."

And so it was no small relief when, there the next morning, was the train at the platform. Its Chinese provenance was confirmed by the ethnicity of the "captain" ushering people aboard and by our salmon-colored tickets, the same as those issued by China's National Railway.

An hour later, we were enjoying a rare sensation: swift, ceaseless movement through a sub-Saharan landscape. The train itself was a sterile beast, but the passengers had brought the atmosphere with them.

The carriage full, we shared our row with a convivial family, laughing as their youngest member leaned from her mother's arms to pilfer some of the dozen pounds of fruit we'd stockpiled in paranoid anticipation of a breakdown.

As the tiled roofs of Addis Ababa gave way to thatch, the large windows offered a moving pastoral of Ethiopian life. Yellow domes of harvested teff, Ethiopia's national crop, ornamented the periphery of every village; boy herders stopped to watch as the train hammered by.

Three hours out of the city, the rails bisected the Awash National Park, where dust devils danced around the base of an extinct volcano, and antelope could be seen grazing on acacia trees. Local folk music tinkled from the public address system.

After all the caveats, and despite the interjection of a hapless longhorn, the train hissed triumphantly into Dire Dawa at 15:27, eight minutes ahead of schedule.

Photos by Marcus Westberg / New York Times

Travelers take shelter in dome tents at a campsite near Lake Abbé, Djibouti. The area is a day's drive away from the rail line that runs from Addis Ababa to Djibouti City.

City of Djins

Despite its soporific air, Dire Dawa, effectively the railway's midpoint, is Ethiopia's second largest city, a fact it owes to the old French-built train line that had fallen in and out of use since its inauguration in 1917. A village backwater a hundred years ago, Dire Dawa grew over the century into a major transit hub for Ethiopian exports, not least khat, a mild herbal stimulant, which is farmed intensively in the surrounding hills. But the place we were more interested in was a 30-mile minibus ride east. The train had availed us the chance to visit the Islamic outpost of Harar.

It was discombobulating, after the prim modernity of the train, to plunge into Harar Jugol, about 120 acres of tight-knit alleyways, encircled by 15-foot walls, which is widely considered to be the fourth holiest site in Islam. We stayed in a "gegar," a traditional Harari home that had been converted into a guesthouse, where we slept in a garret that was formerly a storage room for grain. In the adjacent main room, the owner and her friends drank thick coffee on ornate carpets. It was an oasis that belied the kaleidoscopic bustle outside.

Beyond the gegar's wooden door, Old Harar was a treasure-house of curious museums and muftis' shrines. But far more enticing were the streets themselves. At times, it felt like a town designed to intoxicate the senses. From the main square, our preferred route into the labyrinth was via Makina Girgir, the tailors' road, so named for the sewing machines that line it, girgir being the onomatopoeic word for the clacking of the needles. In the spice market, drifts of dried chilies elicited sneezes from browsing shoppers, while in the meat market, bemused tourists took cover as black kites circled and dived to snatch shreds of goat from the stallholders' palms. In every street, walls had been enlivened by pink and blue paint to celebrate Eid.

Passengers enjoy the air-conditioned comfort of the train heading northeast out of Addis Ababa.

By late afternoon, old indigents with hennaed beards filled many of the alleyways, prostrate in nests of discarded twigs. One of them complained that the price of khat was increasing. The crop had become so lucrative, its users so hooked, that the wholesalers were increasing their prices. Drug-dealer economics 101.

At nightfall, two men headed out of the city carrying a basket of meat scraps, then crouched in a clearing and called out into a patch of scrubland. We looked on as eight spotted hyenas emerged from the shadows to feed from their hands. Over the years, this nightly ritual has become a draw for tourists, who gather to shoot photos under the beam of car headlights. But our young translator, Emaj, told us it also has a more supernatural purpose: to keep the dogs close, because of the ghosts. The hyenas have their own entrances into the city, where they are said to be the only creature capable of seeing and swallowing Djins, spirits of Harar's past inhabitants, sometimes malevolent, who stalk the alleys under cover of darkness.

Railways old and new

Before reboarding the train for Djibouti City, we made a stop in central Dire Dawa. In the main square was the old Chemin de Fer, the railway station of the original French meter-gauge railway.

A stern woman at the entrance, suddenly all smiles once we agreed on a price for entry, donned a conductor's cap and beckoned us in. On the train from Addis Ababa, we'd seen remnants of its ancestor running parallel to our course, sections of it buckled in the heat, others occasionally vanishing and re-emerging from the dust. Now we had found its magnificent reliquary.

Strewn over an acre of rust and rolling stock were jumbles of train components long since corroded, and decommissioned timber carriages moldering on the sidings. A giant tooling-shed, musty with dust and oil, brimmed with 50-year-old lathes. Behind it we discovered a pair of square-bodied locomotives. The conductor said we could clamber aboard, her equanimity only breaking when I succumbed to temptation and pulled a lever on the driver's control panel. The dormant en-

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gine exhaled a long depressurizing huff and rocked on its axles. The conductor motioned that perhaps it was time to go.

Back on the new train, sitting in the hermetic carriage, it was hard not to feel nostalgic about all that old iron. Ethiopia was a place of such tangible antiquity that development invariably exacted some jarring collateral damage. I couldn't help but ponder whether, amid the promise of economic development, the train foreshadowed something more regrettable. It seemed unlikely, for instance, that Harar's ambient mysticism would endure once the outside world infiltrated its walls.

These were a westerner's self-indulgent thoughts, though. I remembered how, on the first leg to Dire Dawa, I'd chatted with Aschale Tesfahun, a political science lecturer at Dire Dawa University, who'd eulogized about the train. "My life has become easier because of this train, but it's also a major advantage for all Ethiopia," he'd said.

I'm sure my ruminations would have reached some kind of conclusion if the train had been conducive to coherent thought. But by now our entire carriage had been taken over by Djiboutians bent on one final khat blowout before reaching home, and the resultingatmosphere left me feeling like the only sober person at a party awash with cheap cocaine. Only with sunset did the frenzied conversation subside into mere garrulousness. Mountains receded to desert, acacia to scrub, as we slid imperceptibly downhill toward the Red Sea.

Photos by Marcus Westberg / New York Times

Pinnacles near Lake Abbé, on the border of Ethiopia and Djibouti. Lake Abbé's fumaroles, built up by the accretion of calcareous mineral deposits, present an astonishing panorama.

Abdi Mohammed, one of the fabled hyena men, uses a whistle and scraps of meat to attract a group of spotted hyenas.

A man holds out khat, a mild herbal stimulant farmed in the hills around Harar Jugol.

A land of curiosities

The following day we boarded a truck, with a guide named Abdallah Ali Moussa, and barreled into the desert. We drove for eight hours, through wastelands of rubble and Martian hills, until we arrived at a desiccated plain. Here, close to the geothermal hot spot of the Afar Triple Junction, where three tectonic plates converge, a forest of pinnacles appeared on the horizon. We had reached Lake Abbé.

At least, we had reached what used to be Lake Abbé. All that could be seen of the lake itself was a navy blur far to the north. Abdallah told us that a recent Ethiopian irrigation project on the Awash River had disrupted the lake's inflow. The water level, always subject to seasonal fluctuations, had now retreated drastically, marooning the otherworldly landscape of limestone towers for which Abbé is famed. The scene we'd imagined, with colonies of flamingoes strutting around a topaz shore, was instead a dust bowl, friable and desolate.

Although I had to swallow some disappointment to see it, Abbé's fumaroles, built up over millennia by the accretion of calcareous mineral deposits, still presented an astonishing panorama. In the densest areas, they formed canyons of melted wax that made me think of van Eyck's "Last Judgment," a ghastly ars Gothica of wailing faces. Baked from above by the sun and from beneath by geothermal activity, the ground crumbled pastry-like under our shoes.

Tomorrow, we would visit Lake Assal, Africa's lowest point and the largest salt repository in the world, where, I regret to report, I almost blinded myself when an ill-advised paddle brought my retinas into contact with water 10 times more saline than the sea. But this evening, watching Abbé's chimneys fade to silhouettes from a simple campsite, felt like the culmination of a pilgrimage. This was the place we'd been most keen to see.

We were back on the move the next morning, fishtailing through the sand on our way to Lake Assal, when we stopped at a camp of Afar tribespeople, the nomadic pastoralists who live in the African Horn's eastern badlands. Abdallah's cousin lived there with his wife and seven children, and he welcomed us into his tent, a simple construction of plaited palm fronds draped over a scaffold of sun-bleached sticks.

When I emerged, blinking into the sun, a group of children had converged at the doorway. With the audience thus arrayed, the oldest one unfolded his fist to reveal some shards of obsidian he had collected. The children on either side of him smiled shyly. They wanted to show me the beautiful stones.

Somewhere across the desert, the train hurtled on. But for now, at least, modernity's creep had far to go.